

Boost for rail in new Labour transport plan

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Labour Party yesterday unveiled a new transport policy which could put 20p a gallon on petrol while scrapping road tax and could add several hundred pounds to the annual tax bill of company car users.

The proposals are part of an ambitious programme aimed at shifting traffic and freight from road to rail, improving public transport, holding down fares and bringing heavy lorries under stricter control.

At the same time, spending on British Rail would receive a boost targeted on improving passenger services, holding down fares and shifting freight away from the roads.

Labour would also repeal the 1985 Transport Act which deregulates bus routes, and it would encourage local councils to return to running services.

The party's ambitious proposals, which would be principally implemented through transport plans drawn up by local authorities, are set out in *Fresh Directions*, a policy document published yesterday.

It pledges full integration of road, rail and bus transport with a distinct shift from private to public provision. And it says that it will be "vital to ensure that

adequate resources are provided to make the transport system work".

However, the document gives no figures for future injections of state cash or the levels of the new taxes. One estimate is around 20p on a gallon of petrol and an additional tax bill of several hundred pounds for those using company cars.

The document says the new tax on petrol, which will eliminate road tax evasion.

A key part of the document says: "Labour's policies on public transport and freight integration will have a major impact in reducing the pressure on our roads - by giving people an alternative to travelling by car and by helping to diversify freight transport."

will ensure that the burden falls most heavily on those who use the roads most, or whose cars consume the most petrol.

"We shall also ensure that where company cars are provided as a perk, they are fairly taxed, so removing a distortion which unfairly encourages the use of the car rather than public transport."

are planned for British Rail, which will get higher state subsidies.

It would be able to go into the market place and raise funds for new investment in commercially viable projects.

Other pledges include:

- Rail: Accelerated main line electrification and replacement of outdated rolling stock.

More platform staff, pegging fares at levels "people can afford" and facilities for stations.

● Building: "Trans-shipment centres" outside cities to speed-up freight transfer and higher grants to pay for more railway sidings at factories.

● Lorries: Banning heavy vehicles from using minor roads as through-routes and restricting night movements.

A much bigger policing role for local authorities with proper penalties for haulage companies that break regulations.

● Roads: Local authorities to assume responsibility for repair and maintenance as part of their road traffic plan.

Provision of by-passes to reduce congestion.

● Department of Transport: A major shake-up to change the ethos of a department "geared towards road policy" and to ensure it promotes a "balanced transport policy".

● Buses: To be brought back under local authority control at fares "people can afford" and with concessionary schemes for pensioners and the disabled.

● Shipping: Tax incentives and grants to rescue the British merchant navy from "collapse".

● Ports: An end to the "free for all" in port investment with the return of statutory controls.



The flying duchess: Clad in sheepskin flying jacket, the Duchess of York enters a Piper Warrior aircraft she had landed at Kidlington airfield, Oxford, yesterday. She was earlier presented with her private pilot's licence (Photograph: Graham Wood). Report, page 3.

Huge tax fraud uncovered at Getty museum

By Geraldine Norman and Thomas Hoving

In the biggest financial scandal in museum history, a former curator of the Getty Museum in California built up its spectacular collection of antiquities through a giant fraud on the American tax system, an investigation by *The Times* has disclosed.

The collection was amassed by Jiri Frel, aged 65, a Czech who defected to the West in 1971 and two years later became curator of antiquities at the Getty, the world's richest museum.

To achieve his ambition of building a spectacular collection quickly, he exploited a United States law allowing taxpayers to deduct the full value of charitable donations from taxable income.

One donor told *The Times* that Mr Frel was prepared to provide appraisals four-and-a-half times higher than the purchase price. At that level, a donor in the 60 per cent tax bracket makes a clear profit on the deal equivalent to slightly more than he paid for the object in the first place.

In fact, the value of some items was even more grossly distorted. One sculpture, a Roman bust, was sold at Christie's, London, in 1978 for £440, then given anonymously to the Getty a year later with a valuation by Mr Frel of \$45,000 (£30,000).

Mr Frel is said to have had crates of archaeological material shipped from Switzerland to Beverly Hills, where they were made available to donors - although some of the donors may never even have seen the vases, statues and bronzes that they donated.

Between arriving at the museum in 1973 and his enforced departure in May 1984, more than 100 donors contributed items valued, according to the museum's return, at \$14,441,228 (about £9.6m). In contrast, from 1967 to 1977 the Metropolitan Museum, New York, was given

objects worth just under \$6 million.

The big donors included Gordon McClelland, a Texan media entrepreneur, who gave works valued at more than \$2 million; Seymour Weintraub, a Californian film and TV producer (almost \$1 million); and Vasek Polak, a Californian car dealer (almost \$750,000).

It was not until 1983 that staff at the Getty noticed the irregularities in Mr Frel's activities. The museum did not take action for another six months, though it claims to have undertaken extensive enquiries.

Their findings were not made public and Mr Frel was not dismissed. Over the following year, the museum described him as "on sabbatical". In fact, he left for Paris in April 1984 and the museum discontinued the acceptance of donated antiquities. On July 1, 1985 he was appointed "research curator" and remained on the museum payroll until he resigned last December.

The museum admitted on Wednesday that it had been aware of wrongdoing, accepting that there were "serious violations of the museum's policies and rules". But the man who instituted the system was merely "relieved of all curatorial duties". "There was no evidence of personal financial gain on his part," they say.

The museum's view, that it has acted within the law, is likely to be challenged. The Internal Revenue Service, the US tax authority, confirms that it was not informed of Mr Frel's activities.

Mr Frel was not to be found in his Paris apartment last week.

INSIDE Palestinian protest in Beirut

Palestinian women marched through the streets of Beirut, vowing to cross the frontline to take food to the besieged refugee camps of Bourj al-Barajneh and Chatila, after the Shia Amal militia refused to allow UN and Red Cross relief teams into the beleaguered settlements. Page 9

Inquiry call

Mrs Thatcher was urged last night to set up an inquiry into the building site tax frauds which have netted US terrorists millions of pounds of public money. Page 3

For the record

Mr Kenneth Adelman, head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has pledged close consultation with America's allies in a statement "clarifying" earlier remarks that they had no business telling Washington now to interpret the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Move to ease worries, page 9

Manager goes

Manager Frank Worthington was among five senior staff dismissed by fourth division Tranmere Rovers. Page 36

Tour review

John Woodcock assesses the factors behind England's highly successful tour of Australia. Page 31

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

£16m Capital

Capital Radio, the London commercial radio station with a weekly audience of 3 million, is coming to the stock market with a price tag of £16 million. Page 23

Cement split

The big three British cement companies have abandoned their common pricing agreement which has last for 52 years. Prices cuts are likely. Page 23

Portfolio Gold

● The £4,000 daily prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was shared yesterday by two readers. Details page 3

● There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 27.

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Alliance anger at new peers

By Sheila Gurr

A row broke out last night when it was confirmed the Alliance will get no new peers in the latest list of 11 announced by the Prime Minister.

The Alliance leaders promptly condemned the absence of any new peers on their benches as mean-spirited and petty.

The list of new Tory peers is headed by Sir Henry Plumb, president of the European Parliament and former president of the National Farmers' Union, and Mr David Stevens, chairman of United Newspapers. The other four Conservatives to receive peerages are Sir Joseph Trifford, the consultant who helped treat the victims of the Grand Hotel bomb blast; Mrs Emily Blatch, Conservative leader on Cambridgeshire County Council; Sir James Gooch, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party; and Sir Charles Johnston, joint honorary treasurer of the Conservative Party.

The elderly Labour benches will gain Mr David Barnett, former general secretary of the General and Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union; Mr Alexander Irvine QC; Dr Fessa Blackstone, Master-elect of Birkbeck College; Mr Denis Carter, a farmer; and Dr Harry Peston, professor of economics at Queen Mary College, London University.

The Chancellor is expected to demonstrate a responsibility which will please the City by using part of his room for manoeuvre to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, thus encouraging a fall in interest and mortgage rates.

Parliament, page 4
Plea to Lawson, page 23

Police test use of armoured carriers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard has been given by the Ministry of Defence a dozen military armoured personnel carriers, known as "Pigs", for use on the streets of London in severe riots.

The one-ton Humber carriers, a familiar sight on the streets of Ulster for many years, were loaned to the police last July by the Army for evaluation and as a stop-gap for use in extreme situations until the Army acquires a fleet of 24 special armoured Land Rovers in May.

In a statement yesterday Scotland Yard said the vehicles were an interim measure. The statement denied the vehicles would be returned to the Army. Evaluations had taken place and changes would be made to the Land Rovers as a result.

During an exercise this week for the new territorial support groups, recently formed for riot situations in London, one of the APCs was put through its paces at the Yard's riot training ground in Hounslow, west London.

The dark blue APC, codenamed "Trojan" by police, carried a group of police marksmen from the Yard's D11 firearms unit into a mock street scene where a gunman had opened fire during a demonstration outside an "embassy".

In a real riot the APCs or the new armoured Land Rovers could also deliver police teams with CS gas or plastic bullets.

The need for armoured vehicles was heavily underlined in a Yard report last year on riot policing after the Brixton and Tottenham riots in 1985.

The report recommended "ballistically protected vehicles... to ensure police operations are not compromised in areas of high rise buildings or where the intensity of the rioting is such as to prevent police making progress on foot".

Some of the vehicles brought to London are being garaged or stored under wraps at the training centre. They have all been painted blue, carrying the crested badge of the Metropolitan Police and white police signs on the front doors and rear.

If police feel they were likely to be used they could be moved into the centre of London to a major police support headquarters south of the Thames or to the area headquarters of the tactical support groups. They could be moved through London on a low-loader trailer under wraps.

Spectrum, page 14

Lawson to opt for smaller tax cut

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

After a Cabinet discussion yesterday of the economic strategy behind the Budget, due to be presented on March 17, senior ministers were convinced that Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be going for a judicious mix of tax-cutting and reduced borrowing.

No dramatic reforms are expected, nor will the Chancellor use every penny available towards cutting income tax rates in the run-up to the general election.

Meanwhile in the Commons, Mrs Margaret Thatcher dismissed reports that the Government was planning steep increases in value-added tax to pay for a gradual scrapping of tax on lower earners.

The Prime Minister confirmed speculation that she may choose to serve through-out the next Parliament rather than stepping down in mid-term.

The latest unemployment figures, published yesterday, showed a slight increase. Unemployment is thought to be falling at an underlying rate of

about 17,000 a month rather than 20,000 as previously estimated. But the Government believes that the underlying trend is still downwards.

The political mood of yesterday's Cabinet meeting was that the Government was more likely to get credit for continuing established economic policies rather than a sharp acceleration of pace or dramatic innovation.

Experimental reforms are therefore out and the Chancellor, who is estimated to have about £3 billion-£4 billion available for his "fiscal adjustment", is expected to move only part of the way towards his target of reducing the standard rate of income tax to 25p in the pound.

The Chancellor is expected to demonstrate a responsibility which will please the City by using part of his room for manoeuvre to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, thus encouraging a fall in interest and mortgage rates.

Parliament, page 4
Plea to Lawson, page 23

Three top Wall Street securities men arrested

New York (Reuters) - Three leading figures in Wall Street securities have been arrested and charged as a result of an investigation into insider trading.

The US Attorney's office said the head of risk arbitrage at Goldman Sachs and Co., one of America's most prestigious investment banking concerns, and two people with "significant roles" at the General Electric subsidiary, Kidder Peabody and Co., were arrested.

The Goldman Sachs employee was named as Mr Robert Freeman, while the two from Kidder Peabody are Mr Richard Wigdon and Mr Timothy Tabor.

The Attorney's office said the three appeared before a judge in New York yesterday. Details of the charges were not given.

Second blow to Soviet image

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin's efforts to improve its human rights image suffered another setback yesterday when, for the second time in 24 hours, Western journalists covering a peaceful demonstration by Soviet Jews were roughed up.

One West German correspondent was arrested. At least 12 of the demonstrators were also detained as they attempted to hold a protest for the fourth consecutive day in support of Mr Iosif Begun, a prominent Jewish refusenik recently denied a pardon because he would not sign an undertaking not to take part in "anti-state" activities.

The attacks on the journalists later prompted angry questions at the bi-weekly briefing held by Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman.

He strove to limit the damage, at the very moment when hundreds of delegates from 80 countries are converging on Moscow to attend a peace forum.

Mr Gerasimov claimed that the attacks on the journalists had been carried out by "vigilantes".

He was then confronted by Mr Hartwig Nathe, of the main West German press agency DPA, who was held in a militia station and questioned for nearly an hour after his film had been destroyed.

Mr Gerasimov asked whether the men who had destroyed the film had been in uniform. "Yes, for sure," replied Herr Nathe.

Telecom engineers in hours row walk-out

By Tim Jones

Thousands of telephone engineers walked out yesterday in a dispute over working hours, claiming local management were ignoring the terms of the 12.66 pay settlement accepted by a majority of two to one on Wednesday.

Engineering staff in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Darlington, Nottingham, London, Brighton and Scotland refused to return to work, claiming they had been asked by local management to work a five-day week instead of their nine-day fortnight.

BT maintained last night the 1978 agreement which introduced the nine-day fortnight gave local managers the option of reverting to a five-day week if local circumstances required it to maintain service to customers.

Mr John Forest, BT's district manager, said he was proposing a five-day week only to settle the backlog of work caused by the strike. The union says that could take months.

At one stage the union had a barrister standing by to take the company to the High Court for alleged breach of agreement. Talks will continue today to try to settle the dispute.

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NEWS SUMMARY

House questions new guidelines

Select committee chairman yesterday rejected the Government's latest proposals over the questioning of Civil Servants.

Last week the Government unveiled new guidelines to be sent to Civil Servants telling them they should not answer questions from MPs which dealt with their possible misconduct. Such questions should be referred to their minister, and it was for him to take any disciplinary action, and report back to the committee.

However, the chairman agreed that those guidelines contravened the unequalled rights of select committees.

Aids global phone-in

The BBC World Service is planning a global phone-in programme on Aids on March 1 after a 30-minute documentary. Questions are to be taken by Dr Tony Pinching of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, one of Britain's top Aids experts.

Listeners are to be invited to send their questions and telephone number to the Aids Phone-in, Bush House, London WC2 4PH. Some will be telephoned during the programme so they may speak with Dr Pinching directly. Listeners may call 01-580-4411 while the programme is on the air, from 3.45 to 4.45pm.

The programme can be heard in Western Europe and south-east England on 648 kHz medium wave.

Miners in 'Protest' at Palace

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday put off calls for industrial action in favour of further talks to settle a pay claim.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, said many miners felt resentful and angry at the lack of progress in the talks.

Mr Scargill said: "There were calls for industrial action but it was felt we should have more meetings with the coal board. We are asking them to agree to negotiations."

Heart campaign

A campaign to cut the death toll from heart disease will be launched in April, Mrs Edwina Currie, junior health minister (right), announced yesterday. Look After Your Heart will be targeted at semi-skilled and manual workers.

Mrs Currie told the Mersey Regional Health Authority in Runcorn that smoking, drinking, obesity, high blood pressure and lack of exercise contributed to the "horrendous" toll.

Second body in bog

Archaeologists have identified another human body in Lindow Moss, the peat bog near Winslow in Cheshire which yielded the Lindow Man, currently on exhibition at the British Museum as "The Body in the Bog".

It was found by workers preparing to mill a stack of dried peat last Friday. Radio carbon dating suggests the body is about 2,000 years old.



Review urged prostitution case repeal

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The prosecution of Mrs Cynthia Payne which ended with nine verdicts of not guilty after a 13-day trial costing about £100,000 would have been unlikely if reforms urged by a group of judges and lawyers in 1985 had been implemented.

Mrs Payne was prosecuted under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 which was considered as

part of a full review of sexual offences by the Criminal Law Revision Committee under Lord Justice (as he then was) Lawton.

But the 17-strong committee concluded that while the law should not encourage prostitution, it should not drive prostitutes on to the streets.

It should also be used to stop any nuisance caused by prostitution, it said in *Prostitution: Off-Street Activities*.

The committee also gave a warning that the more "repressive" the law becomes against escort agencies, bogus clubs and massage parlours, the more "rogues are likely to charge for their services and the more organized the exploitation of prostitution might become".

Mrs Payne was charged under section 31 under which it is "an offence for a woman for purposes of gain to exercise control, direction or influence over a prostitute's movements

in a way which shows she is aiding, abetting or compelling her prostitution".

But the offence was intended, according to the committee who urged its repeal, to "cover the case of the ponce who controls or directs the activities of a single prostitute, for example, by sending her out on to the streets to earn money".

The committee recommended that instead of sections 30 (man living on earnings of prostitution) and

31 of the act, there should be three new offences more directed "against the mischief with which the criminal law ought to be involved", namely the organization of prostitution.

A minority of the committee said there should not be an offence in place of section 31.

The Home Office said yesterday that there were no plans to implement the reforms outlined by the Criminal Law Revision Committee.

Industry and unions set to collide on pay bargains

By Tim Jones

The Confederation of British Industry is set on a collision course with the TUC, when the National Economic Development Committee meets next month, over the question of annual pay increases and national bargaining.

The CBI is about to throw its weight behind Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Employment, who this week questioned the need for the ingrained annual rituals.

Mr Clarke has argued that growing concern over the North-South divide can be eased if companies in the North are able to offer lower rates than in London and the South-east.

According to the economic committee of the TUC, national pay-bargaining has allowed significant flexibility in earnings and is regarded by both employers and unions as a factor in stabilizing industrial relations.

In fact, with some notable exceptions, the whole concept of national bargaining is becoming increasingly less important in formulating pay norms for similar work in comparable industries.

This is demonstrated in the latest pay award of 4.9 per cent negotiated between the unions and the Engineering Employers' Federation, which raised pay levels nationally to £106 for a skilled worker and to £76 for an unskilled man for a basic 39-hour week without overtime or premium payments.

In practice, virtually no company pays these rates and because of in-plant bargaining, which is an increasingly important factor, the average for the industry is £155 for a

skilled man and £112 for an unskilled worker.

Some big companies do negotiate rates of pay which are absolute. Under a two-year, 18.5 per cent deal for its on-line workers, which runs out next October, three Ford motor company employees earn the same at Halewood on Merseyside as at Dagenham in Greater London.

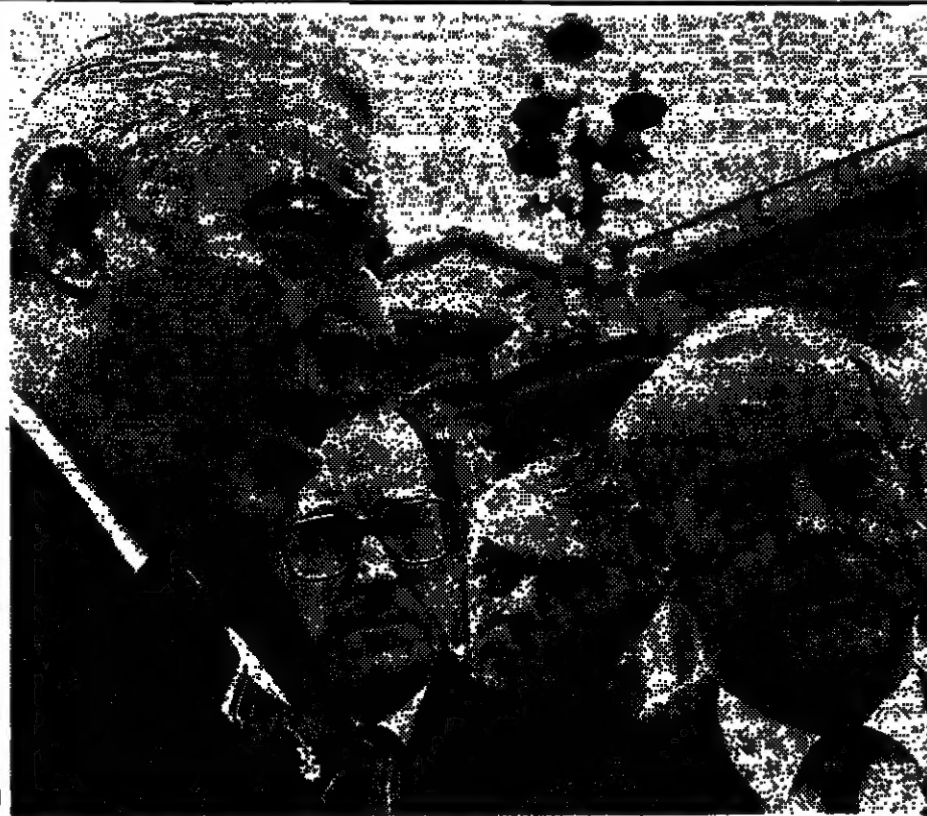
Ford maintains it is satisfied with its national pay bargaining policy. Other companies, such as Marks & Spencer, do not negotiate with unions but recognize regional cost-of-living differences so that a shop assistant, aged 18, in Swansea will get £98 a week, against £125 for her counterpart in Oxford Street.

The whole concept of national pay bargaining is inextricably linked with government pay policies and attempts to curb inflation. The post-war pattern has been one of governments of every shade attempting to regulate wage increases against the pressure of trade unions out to gain as much as possible for members.

Most attempts to impose statutory wage ceilings or to negotiate them on a self-regulatory basis have failed, in particular the attempt by Mr James Callaghan's government to introduce a 5 per cent guideline on wages.

The unions resisted and the winter of discontent which followed led to Mrs Thatcher becoming Prime Minister.

Since then, because of unemployment, falling inflation and the introduction of such measures as post-strike ballots, the pattern of wage-negotiations has become less confrontational.



The Rev Ian Paisley (left) delivering a petition against the Anglo-Irish agreement, signed by 400,000 people in Ulster demanding a referendum, to the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday, accompanied by Mr James Moynihan (Photograph: James Gray).

Farmers protest over school video

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The National Farmers' Union, its combative mood after passing a vote of no confidence in the Government on Tuesday, yesterday turned its guns on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In a letter to chief education officers, Mr Simon Gourlay, the NFU president, describes a video sent by the RSPCA to education authorities as an exceptionally emotive piece of propaganda.

The video, entitled *Food for Protest*, is an attack on certain forms of intensive farming. It contains what the NFU describes as "highly disturbing" clips from news films unconnected with farming, including shots of war victims, bombing sequences, concentration camp scenes and the

'Loyalists' petition to the Queen

Ulster Unionist leaders James Moynihan and the Rev Ian Paisley, delivered a petition, signed by 400,000 people, opposing the Anglo-Irish agreement to the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The petition calls for a referendum and alleges people in Ulster are being treated differently from subjects in the rest of the UK because of Dublin's involvement in their affairs.

Mr Paisley and Mr Moynihan are hoping that by taking their campaign to the Queen, they can draw attention to their demands for a vote on the issue. The Government has shown no inclination to call a referendum, or to scrap the agreement and it is not thought the petition will alter its stance.

Parliament, page 4

Irish election Haughey lures Euro financiers

By Richard Ford

Plans to turn the Irish Republic into a European financial services centre will be proposed by Mr Charles Haughey today as part of his strategy of appealing to the voters as a man of vision.

The Fianna Fail leader will propose a number of measures which he believes will attract international banking houses, insurance institutions and bond dealers to choose the republic as a base for their European headquarters.

His main target is Japanese and US financial corporations which he hopes to attract with financial inducements and guarantees of security from state interference.

The plan being unveiled just four days before polling day is designed to emphasize Mr Haughey and his party's hope and vision for the future when contrasted with the more gloomy message of his opponent, Dr Garret FitzGerald.

Mr Haughey's buoyancy on the campaign trail is in stark contrast to Dr FitzGerald, whose campaign has lacked the sharpness of four years ago when its professionalism surpassed the renowned Fianna Fail machine.

Fine Gael strategists have recognized the harm being done by their subdued campaign. Over the past few days they have attempted to be more upbeat in their message.

Much of the dramatic improvement in Fine Gael electioneering was credited four years ago to close aides of Dr FitzGerald, who during his term in office became known as "the national handlers".

It was a term used derogatorily to depict advisers who opponents believed lurked in the shadows manipulating the Prime Minister and more or less running the country.

Church House

The Corporation of the Church House, not the General Synod, owns Church House, Westminster (report, February 6). The corporation will ultimately decide its future, including the possibility of disposing of it. If the Synod decides to transfer its operations,

Safety claim for disposal method

A Lincoln-based company claims to have developed a way of dealing with nuclear waste that overcomes the safety and economic problems facing rival techniques.

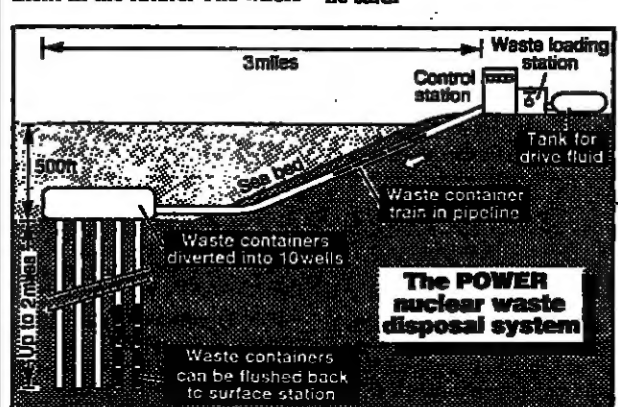
Developed by the engineering consultants, Wheeler Offshore, the Pipeline Operated Waste Energy Repository (Power) technique disposes of the waste by loading the canisters into a pipeline on the sea coast, and flushing them into offshore bore-holes.

Once in the bore-holes, the canisters are continuously monitored for leaks and can be retrieved at any time for inspection, or further treatment in the future. The whole

process is automatic, eliminating the risk to workers of any radiation risk.

Unlike other techniques, low, intermediate and high-level waste can all be handled by Power, and would cost considerably less per canister processed, according to its inventor, Dr Kenneth Wheeler. A disposal plant would cost about \$45 million to build, and about \$2.5 million a year to run.

"We believe that the Power system provides a complete answer to the problems and public fears about the safety of sea dumping and land burial," he said.



Bishop's supporters in mood of caution

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

There were obvious hesitations among Anglican supporters of the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, yesterday in response to his warning that he might start talks with the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches if the Church of England was determined to ordain women as priests. The Roman Catholic Church was no less cautious.

The main Anglo-Catholic organization in the Church of England, the Church Union, is expected to make a public statement next Monday urging its members not to take premature action.

One senior churchman known to share Dr Leonard's objections to women priests remarked: "If we start talking in a rather wild way people will write us off. We have got to keep our nerve."

But it was suggested that Dr Leonard's latest move in the war of nerves over women priests will draw scorn from supporters of the Movement for the Ordination of Women as just an attempt to frighten the General Synod.

An official Roman Catholic spokesman said Dr Leonard's remarks in his interview with *The Times* were "an internal affair of the Church of England", and a spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury said that "the archbishop never comments on newspaper interviews".

Dr Leonard said in the interview that if the General Synod decided to proceed by a significant majority towards ordaining women at its meeting in two weeks, he expected to lead a group of Anglicans in discussions with other episcopal churches, with a view to entering full communion with them in due course.

Asked what action he might contemplate, he replied: "It might involve, for example, talking about the possibility of some relationship between us and another church."

Dr Leonard went on: "Obviously one does not do that until one is forced to". He recalled Cardinal Newman's *An Essay On The Development Of Christian Doctrine* which expressed the view that "when the truth is at stake, it may not be schism, it may be division which is right and necessary".

Dr Leonard envisaged, in the light of the synod's decision in a fortnight, a group of Anglicans meeting to discuss approaching the Roman Catholic and Orthodox authorities, and suggested a relationship, perhaps on the model of the Roman Catholic Church's "uniate" arrangement (such as exists with the Ukrainian Catholic Church).

He said it could, on the completion of such an arrangement, entail his resignation as Bishop of London, as he was no longer contemplating transferring London as an ecclesiastical see intact into communion with another church.

But he added: "I don't think anything of this kind could be done by individuals on their own initiative. I would not expect Roman Catholics or the Orthodox to take notice if it actually encouraged people going out."

"On the other hand people are told to go, and encouraged to explore 'other ways, which we have been, when we are now free to look around'."

Board draws up shortlist for BBC post

The governors of the BBC yesterday began to create a shortlist of candidates seeking the job of director-general.

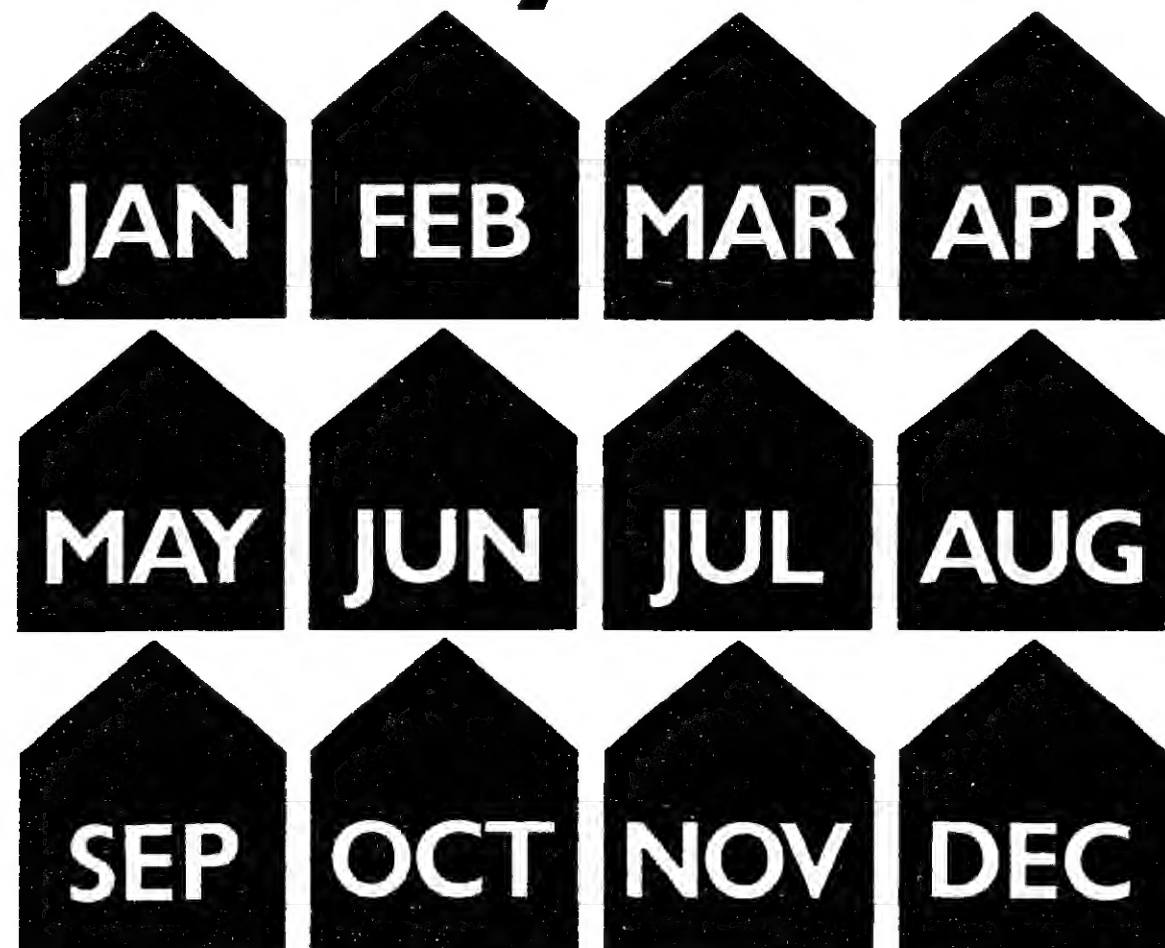
The process had not been completed when governors left Broadcasting House after their regular fortnightly meeting.

The governors hope to announce the new director-general after their next regular meeting on February 26.

About half a dozen candidates are expected to be interviewed next week.

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ALL RUGS REMOVED FROM THE BONDED STORES OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST WHOLESALE.

AUCTION THIS SUNDAY
15TH FEBRUARY 1987 AT 3.00 PM.
VIEW FROM 1.00 PM. DAY OF SALE

AT THE WAREHOUSE, ROXBAY PLACE, LONDON SW6
Directions: Travelling west along Old Brompton Road take first turning left after West Brompton tube station into Seagrave Road - take first left again into Roxby Place.

INVENTORY: ISPAHAN, QUM, KESHAN, APFAH, BOKHARA, SAROUK, BELOUCH, CAUCASIAN, HAMADAN, BIDAR, MESHED, MELAYOUR, JOSHAN, HERIZ, BAKHTIAR, KILIM, ISLAMABAD, JAPUR, TABRIZ, TURKISH, TURKOMAN, AFGHAN, ANTIQUE CAUCASIAN KAZAK, ANTIQUE SHIRVAN, ANTIQUE SHIRVAN, SILK QUM, ANTIQUE QASHGAI, SILK KASHMIR, FIVE SILK HERRING RUGS. SPACE DOES NOT PERMIT LISTING ALL.

TERMS OF PAYMENT: CASH, CHEQUE AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.

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Call for Ulster frauds action

Government action was demanded by Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) to bring to a complete end a swindle on building sites in Northern Ireland which was being used to provide millions of pounds to finance terrorist organizations.

On Wednesday, Mr Justice Nicholson imposed prison sentences on two Belfast men and said that "loyalist" and republican gangs had divided up the building sites in Northern Ireland and extensive tax swindles had provided terrorists with their most important source of revenue during the past decade.

During question time, Mr Harris asked how anyone could have confidence in unemployment figures for Northern Ireland, given the revelations by Mr Justice Nicholson of the massive swindle.

He said the swindle should be followed up and the swindle ended. Mr Peter Viggers, Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland, said that the convictions were the latest in a series involving frauds.

Later, Mr Stuart Bell, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked when the Government let millions of pounds of taxpayers' money pass into the pockets of paramilitary organizations through the building of houses in Northern Ireland.

"It is on the waterfront gangsterism on a high scale," he said. Such racketeering and extortion had nothing to do with a united Ireland. What was the Government going to do?

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said that the Opposition's comments were somewhat ironic when the Government was beginning to get convictions and was countering racketeering by tax exemptions or other activities in the building industry, or in terms of driving clubs or gaming and betting.

The Government was starting to choke off the supply of funds to paramilitary organizations from such sources.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of the Environment deserved credit for what had been achieved.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) asked how much public money was involved in the housing racket. Would a commission of inquiry be set up to look into the racket to discover where its roots lay because it seemed they might lie on this side of the Irish Channel?

Mr Scott said that rather more than four years ago the RUC established a unit to investigate these matters and it had been persistently continuing with that inquiry in co-operation with authorities in Northern Ireland and on this side of the water.

"There was a cross-channel element in all this, but in addition to yesterday's convictions there are 140 prosecutions pending in this broad area. The RUC have done a first-class job in getting to grips with this racket."

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) asked Mr Tom King, Secretary of State, to tell the Chief Constable of the RUC that in no circumstances would British taxpayers put up with their money going to fund paramilitary organizations.

Mr King entirely accepted what he said. The Government takes an extremely serious view of this matter.

Yesterday's convictions were the latest in a series of successful investigations.

Petition on Unionists' referendum under fire

N IRELAND

The call for a referendum on the Anglo-Irish Agreement made in a petition which was handed in at Buckingham Palace by the Rev Ian Paisley and Mr John Molyneux was criticized on all sides during Commons questions.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who told MPs that it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the petition, said that the Government had made clear that it stood by the agreement.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said the only real conclusion from the petition was that three-quarters of the population of Northern Ireland did not sign it. When those leaders assumed to speak on behalf of all the public of Northern Ireland, they spoke on behalf of a quarter of the population.

Mr King said that if one went for rather greater accuracy, one third of the electorate actually signed it.

Sir John Bigger-Davison (Epping Forest, C) asked if, when the Taoiseach had said recently that the agreement was making Unionists think in ways they had never thought before, he had in mind such an unprecedented event as the presentation of a huge petition to the Queen.

When that petition was remitted to the Government by her principal Secretary of State, would he give it due consideration and weigh fairly the arguments for a referendum in the province?

Mr King: I understand that the petition has been delivered to the Buckingham Palace. It will be for her Majesty to decide whether, in accordance with normal constitutional practice, it is referred to myself as the minister responsible. In the meantime it will be inappropriate for me to comment.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab) said that there had been a suggestion from the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland that a round-table conference of all parties should be convened just as soon as the present impasse eased. Would

he watch for such an opportunity?

Mr King: I believe it is sensible for discussions to take place. There is no point in waiting. I am conscious that the organization to which he refers, among others, is trying to address future organization in the province.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland: Will the Secretary of State try to persuade the Unionist leaders that a referendum, even if it were held, would at most only tell us what we know already — which side is in the majority?

Mr King: I agree. Democracy is also about the position and proper respect for the interests of the minority.

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Mr Tom King: "The Government stands by the Anglo-Irish Agreement".

Unemployment trend 'the best since 1973'

For six months the trend in unemployment in this country had been steadily downward, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said in opening a debate on employment and training initiatives.

He said that the figures for this month were not as good as for each of the past five months but the fact was that January was always the worst month of the year for unemployment figures.

"It is the worst month of the winter. This is the smallest rise in any January we have seen in eight years. The trend in the last six months has been the best we have seen in this country since 1973."

He was moving a motion commending the Government on the wide range of practical help it provided through its training and employment measures and through the Restart Programme.

The motion also welcomed the launch of the new Job Training Scheme and endorsed the promotion of enterprise and small business, more flexible labour markets, training and more help for the long-term unemployed.

The Government had encouraged and welcomed the wide spread of employment in service industries as well as in manufacturing industries. It had encouraged new business start-ups and supported the growth of small and medium-size enterprises.

They were seeing an economy develop, like that of other developed countries, in which a higher proportion of people had part-time work.

The Government was beginning to sort out the system of vocational qualifications so that there was a set pattern of qualifications that pupils could seek to achieve and that employers could make best use of.

Running through the Government's complex package to help employment was modernization, an enterprise economy in which the private sector would produce most of the jobs and in which a more skilled and versatile labour force would come about.

The distinctive feature of Alliance policies in *The Guardian* this morning was that they were the only people still urging a statutory incomes policy as a key part of their measures.

The approach was to be a new payroll tax exacted on those firms that exceeded a pay norm. The Alliance was plainly returning to the policing of individual pay settlements, company by company, across the country. Such policies had failed in the 1970s.

A stark choice faced the country when one considered Labour's proposals. If the Alliance had little new to offer, Labour always seemed to be looking firmly backwards to the economy and Labour governments of former times.

Labour emphasized the need, above all, for more public sector jobs, particularly in local government but sometimes in the nationalized industries as well. Labour wanted state-directed investment and banked after planning agreements in various forms. It wanted a much more regulated labour market with more legal controls. It wanted to make it easier to strike again without the legal requirement of pre-strike ballots.

They are planning an economy in which the state and big trades unions are dominant again, with growing numbers on the public payroll, supported by the taxes of private citizens and private industries.

Since March 1983 more than one million extra jobs had been created by the British economy, more than those in the rest of the EEC put together. "So the Tory Party has the new ideas on employment. The reason we took that role is because of the new ideas and package of programmes that we have now, which are now outstripping any new ideas of any other European country."

Many local education authorities were coming forward seeking to take part in the Job Training Scheme, managing agents, the scheme filled a real need for those under 25, providing free training.

So why was there this automatic opposition from Labour over the Government's package of measures and the results? It was quite obvious that Labour did not want to see unemployment continuing to go down in 1987.

Thatcher surprise at tax report

PRIME MINISTER

Questioned by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, about press reports of big changes to come in income tax, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said during question time that she had read with surprise the suggestions, of which she had absolutely no knowledge, that Mr Kinnock will take this opportunity of announcing the tax change policies ascribed to her this morning as falsehoods, and would she say that, because such changes would mean at the very least a doubling of value-added tax, which would hit pensioners, families on low incomes and the unemployed, she does not want such changes?

Mrs Thatcher: I read the papers this morning with surprise and absolutely no knowledge at all of anything they put there.

I would point out that this Government in fact brought down income tax from the heights beloved by the Labour Party of 98 per cent on savings and 83 per cent on earnings and at the same time increased the amount spent on the social services.

Mr Kinnock: Will she give an assurance that such changes will not be visited, certainly this side of the general election, because we clearly remember, with the rest of the country, an undertaking not to increase VAT by 100 per cent, which then, six weeks after the election, she did by 80 per cent?

For an alleged tax-cutting Prime Minister she has increased the tax burden. Mrs Thatcher: I can give an assurance this Government will continue into the next Parliament with its prudent, cautious financial policies.

Mr Kinnock: The Prime Minister will not be doing any of that, not least because she is high. Taxer Thatcher (Opposition cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: That is an absurd comment from a party which loved having a tax of 98 per cent, diminished pensions by high inflation, lower a tax on earnings of 83 per cent and had income-tax rates up to 35 per cent in the pound.

Since 1979, income tax has been cut by 28,000 million, the equivalent of £7 a week for the average family.

**Grants cut
protest
by Owen**

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, protested during Prime Minister's questions, at the cuts in grants to the London and Manchester schools, but the Prime Minister said that grants to universities were being increased.

Dr Owen: As, since 1980, this country has lost 1,000 scientists, engineers and technologists a year on average to the United States, how does she justify the University Grants Committee cutback in universities and the cutbacks for the London Business School and the Manchester Business School?

Mrs Thatcher: In view of the first part of his question, that there have been some losses of scientists, engineers and technologists, surely he would be asking for lower taxes for those on top incomes, but there is something in what he says.

Attack by US official 'fatuous'

The comment by Mr Kenneth Adelman, head of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, that the Western allies had no business telling Washington how to interpret the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, was raised during Prime Minister's question time.

Would Mrs Thatcher study the famous remarks made by Mr Adelman, asked Mr Hugh Dyer (Harrow East, C), and then tell the Americans that Europe knew more about disarmament and arms control?

Mrs Thatcher: I am not familiar with the remarks, but I will read them with interest with a view to maintaining the firm alliance between this and the other side of the Atlantic.

**Zircon claim
made by MP**

Part of the public money that had been spent on the Government's secret Zircon spy-satellite project had been attributed to the Trident programme and that was how it was shown in the public expenditure White Paper, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said during business questions in the Commons.

Mr Campbell-Savours said the Ministry of Defence had deliberately misled the Comptroller and Auditor General, he said.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that Mr Campbell-Savours was making a very serious charge.

**Kinnock's
complaint**

The size of profits already arising from the privatization of British Airways was scandalous by anybody's standards, Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said during business questions in the Commons. He pressed Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, to find time for a debate.

**Warning on
Aids danger**

The Government was asked during business questions to be alert to potential loopholes in the measures being taken to check the spread of Aids. Mr Richard Hogg (Leamington, C) said that legislation was needed immediately to deal with tattooing, electrolysis and ear-piercing to ensure that no other avenue was available by which Aids could be transmitted.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, promised to bring the warning to the attention of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Dead phones

At the end of last week, 46 of the 147 public telephones at service areas on the M1 were out of order, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons written reply.

Correction

Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C) was wrongly reported on February 11 as saying, after a statement on the development of agricultural land, that he wanted the countryside to be protected from builders. That should have read "protected from the planners".

Marsh is drafted in for Conservatives

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Lord Marsh, the former Labour cabinet minister, is to be drafted into the Greening-by-election to boost the flagging Conservative campaign, it was disclosed yesterday.

He will appear at the elbow of Mr John Antcliffe, the Tory candidate in the London seat, where the Alliance is emerging as the main challenger to Labour.

Mr Antcliffe said that the cross-bench peer, as Richard Marsh, Minister of Transport in the Wilson Government of the 1960s, was weighing in because he felt it essential that the "hard left" be stopped in their tracks.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Tory chairman, said: "Dick Marsh has watched the relentless slide to the left of the Labour Party under Neil Kinnock and has had enough."

"He wants to halt their growing extremism, and knows that the only way to stop the left is to vote Conservative — any other vote will let Labour in."

Lord Marsh, who resigned as Labour MP for Greenwich in 1971 to become chairman of British Rail, is now chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association.

After the *Newspaper* poll showing a seven-point jump in Alliance support in the constituency, propelling it into second place behind Labour, the Tories turned their attack on the third party.

Mr Antcliffe branded them Labour's "natural allies" and accused them of adopting similar policies in local government by pushing through huge rate rises and boosting bureaucracy by taking on hundreds of extra administrators.

The Conservatives also announced that Mr Jeffrey Ar-

Rosie Barnes



The Alliance candidate, Mrs Rosie Barnes (left), Mr John Cartwright, MP, and Mr David Steel at the Alliance by-election press conference yesterday.

Weatherill's hands tied

Speaker will face a battle

By Sheila Gunn and Alan Wood

Labour and Alliance candidates are to stand against the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill at Croydon North East in the general election.

The contest will revive controversy about how to protect the Speaker from becoming embroiled in party politics during an election campaign while retaining his role as a constituency MP.

Mr Weatherill had a majority of 11,627 when he stood as a Conservative in the 1983 general election before he became Speaker. But he gave up all party affiliations when he took on the role of Speaker and so cannot canvass as a Conservative during the campaign.

The disadvantages from the Speaker's point of view is that he stands but does not fight so he has his hands tied

behind his back", he said. "I will stand as Mr Speaker Weatherill, a non-party independent candidate. And I will not involve myself in any sense in party politics because the House of Commons would not expect a man who had promised to be totally impartial to go back on that pledge for a couple of weeks."

The Alliance has again picked Mr Julian Goldie to stand against him. Mr Goldie, an insurance salesman, polled 10,655 in the last election. Miss Christine Patrick had been selected by Labour in place of Miss Kathryn Tiley, who polled 9,503 in 1983.

Speakers of the House of Commons have faced a variety of challenges in elections since 1938 when a select committee recommended that they should not be opposed.

Mr Speaker Thomas, now Lord Topyanday, was opposed

by Phaid Cymru and National Front candidates in Cardiff West in the 1979 general election, but not by Conservative or Alliance candidates.

He romped home with a majority of 23,763.

Before him, Mr Selwyn Lloyd when Speaker faced both Labour and Liberal opponents in Wirral West in 1971. But that was influenced by his role as Foreign Secretary in the Suez crisis.

There has been debate in previous years over whether the Speaker should still be a constituency MP. One idea has been that the Speaker should have a special seat to protect his impartiality.

But Mr Speaker Weatherill believes strongly that a Speaker should be regarded by other MPs as "one of us" and have the same pressures as other members.

Tories attempt to embarrass Kinnock

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Senior Conservative MPs sought to embarrass Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday by challenging him to say when he would be returning to the United States to sell his party's non-nuclear defence policy.

The Labour leader's first trip, in December, was portrayed as far from successful in the British media. In January his second trip, planned

for this month, was postponed because President Reagan was unable to find time to see him. Aides emphasized that this was not a snub and that the visit would be rearranged.

Yesterday's challenge came in a letter from Mr Gerry Neale, chairman of the Conservative Campaign for Defence and Multilateral Disarmament.

To date the jurisdiction of the MDP has been restricted to a 15-mile radius from any military establishment. The Government wishes to abolish those limits, arguing that there are now so many defence establishments that MDP jurisdiction is virtually nationwide already.

The proposal has aroused deep concern among civilian chief constables, and Labour and Conservative MPs pressed Mr Archibald Hamilton, the junior defence minister, yesterday to establish exactly which police force would be responsible for what.

Mr Hamilton rejected the suggestion of Mr Martin O'Neill, a Labour defence spokesman, that he should compile a written "concordat" setting out precisely the respective responsibilities of the MDP and the civilian constabularies. However he agreed to draw up national guidelines which will lay down the framework for liaison arrangements between the chief constables of the two forces.

He also reassured Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury, that the civilian constabularies would continue to have "primacy" over the MDP both inside and outside defence establishments.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Broadcasting Bill, second reading. British Railways Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on the disabled and on women in the community. Wednesday: Debate on Government expenditure plans. Thursday: Banking Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' Bills: Access to Personal Files Bill and Educational (Nutritional Requirements) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill, third reading.

MoD police promises for MPs

By Our Political Reporter

A Bill enabling the 5,000-strong Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) to operate throughout the country with powers equal to the civilian police completed its Commons committee stage yesterday, but only after MPs had extracted firm assurances about the extent of MDP power from the Government.

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Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Bill and Housing (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Bill, second readings.

Lords: Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, second reading. Scotland Bill, report stages. Debate on EEC forestry policy. Wednesday: Debate on unemployment.

Thursday: Territorial Sea Bill, committee. Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984 (Continuance) Order. Debate on civil research and development.

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Legal aid scheme hits 'serious crisis' over cuts in budget

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government was attacked by the Law Society and the Bar Council yesterday for failing to provide enough money for the running of the legal aid scheme which as a result has "hit a serious crisis".

The two professional bodies say that for the second year running the Government has cut the estimate of what is needed to run the scheme, by just under £1.8 million to £25.5 million.

That breaches the understanding on which the scheme has been administered for 36 years: namely that the Government would meet the necessary costs, they say.

As a result, the public could face delays in civil cases of up to 100 days, a further increase of 22 days in the waiting time this year, for their legal aid applications to be dealt with.

Solicitors will face similar delays waiting for their bills to be paid and more firms who concentrate on legal aid work and already working on huge overdrafts may be forced out of business.

Third, there is a risk that abuses of the scheme may be able to flourish through inadequate administrative controls.

The unprecedented statement comes after a meeting on Monday between the president of the Law Society and the Bar chairman with the Lord Chancellor over the legal aid budget when the two sides expressed their concern.

Yesterday, Mr John Wickerson, Law Society president,

told the society's council members: "The Lord Chancellor acknowledged that reductions in service might result from the budget, but was not able to hold out any hope of further finding being available in 1987-88".

The £1.8 million cut in the estimated budget comes on top of a similar cut last year of £1.36 million in the estimate put forward by the Law Society, which runs the scheme.

The cumulative effect of both will be "extremely deleterious" as the brunt of this year's reduction will have to be borne by staff and will mean the loss of about 123 staff from a total of 1,500.

The society and the Bar say: "Whereas previously there have been delays of some weeks there will now be delays of months".

"It has been necessary to discontinue the payment of overtime and the employment of temporary staff in legal aid offices; to impose tight controls on the filling of vacancies which occur; and even in some offices to decline to deal with incoming telephone calls."

Mr Charles Elly, chairman of the legal aid committee, said the effect of the inadequate budget was that it would take on average three months to process some legal aid certificates.

"That means that people will not be able to pursue their cases and any delay means injustice."

Mr Walter Merricks, for the Law Society, said that a report

by the management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, had said that if the administration of legal aid was not properly funded, one could not "safeguard and control the sums of money being passed out through the system".

Last night the Lord Chancellor's Department issued an equally forceful denial that there had been any cut. The £25.5 million for 1987-88 was 3.4 per cent more than that for this year, in line with inflation.

The increase came after a rise of about 18 per cent for 1986-87 over the year before that, which showed "the Government was prepared to give more money to legal aid administration where this is necessary".

It added that the Government acknowledged "the steady rise in demand for legal aid can be expected to continue next financial year, but it does not accept that rising workload necessarily means pro rata rises in administration resources to deal with it".

But the society said the 18 per cent rise was specifically for the creation of the duty solicitor scheme.

Second, it accepts the need for greater efficiency and is now radically reforming the way the scheme is run.

Within the next few weeks a White Paper on legal aid is expected to recommend the administration of the legal aid scheme, 7.8 per cent of the total legal aid budget, be handed over to a legal services board.



Mr Rod Hall with one of the parrots destined for Arizona (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Parrots on wing for US forests

By Gareth Haw Davies

A crate of five captive-bred male thick-billed parrots, which were hunted to extinction by 1935 in their natural habitat of the pine and oak woods of southern Arizona, were yesterday flown to the United States from Jersey Zoo.

Naturalists hope they will make up enough numbers for a viable breeding population.

Since last September this rufous, vividly decorated bird with scarlet head and green plumage, North America's last indigenous parrot, has once again been heard on the hillsides north of the Mexican border.

The success of the reintroduction programme depends on increasing the gene pool of the 13 birds already released by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The free airlift of the Jersey Zoo parrots by British Airways was arranged by Mr Rod Hall, a Boeing 747 engineer at BA and devoted ally of threatened and displaced wildlife.

The birds follow a parade of exotic refugee wildlife he has helped to repatriate.

Last year BA recognized the importance of Mr Hall's spare-time involvement by setting up a promotion department to support him, called Assisting Nature Conservation, with a £25,000 annual budget.

Mr Hall's first assignment, in 1981, was to gather the eggs of flightless steamer ducks and ruddy-headed ducks from their one world stronghold in the Falklands and to deliver them to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire.

Dismissal stands on 'abortion' typist

A medical receptionist dismissed after refusing to type abortion documents said yesterday she would take her case to the House of Lords after her appeal in the High Court failed.

Mrs Barbara Janaway, a practising Roman Catholic, had appealed against a decision of Salford Health Authority, Manchester, dismissing her for "misconduct". Mrs Janaway, of Lords Street, Cadishead, near Manchester, who believes abortion is morally wrong, had objected to typing letters referring patients to specialists for pregnancy terminations. She had argued that she was protected by the "conscience clause" of the 1967 Abortion Act.

This states: "No person, shall be under any duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorized by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection".

But the judge said he found it impossible, as a "matter of plain English," to describe a receptionist typing a letter of referral as "thereby participating in the subsequent treatment of a patient in hospital".

Mrs Phyllis Bowman, National Director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said in a statement: "It is ridiculous to claim that one group of workers may not be forced against their conscience to become involved in a particular procedure while others may be compelled to involve themselves in duties resulting in the procedure being carried out."

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£5m plea to build clipper

An appeal was launched yesterday for more than £5 million to re-create one of the glories of the North-east, the record-breaking Victorian sailing ship, *Torrens*.

The Sunderland-built square rigger was one of the last full-rigged passenger clipper and sailed the great Australian trade route for nearly 30 years, on one trip covering the 16,000 miles from Plymouth to Adelaide in 64 days.

Shipbuilders in Genoa are reputed to have been so awed by her beauty that in 1910 they spared her for a time until an accident sealed her fate. Joseph Conrad, the novelist, who served on *Torrens* as second mate for two years in the 1890s, described her as "a ship of brilliant qualities".

The *Torrens* Maritime Trust is hoping to build a replica in the same yard, now disused, where the original was launched in 1875 to become the flagship of the Elder Line.

Trust members, who include businessmen and local councillors, hope to build the replica using original plans. As well as creating jobs during construction, they want to use the ship as a floating exhibition centre.

The estimated cost of more than £5 million is considerably more than the £27,257 for the original, but the new version would have the benefit of modern navigational aids and reserve engines.



Mrs Cathy Rowling: will take title of reverend

Wife joins husband in clergy

By Mark Ellis

The new dean of a neighbouring parish will be a familiar face to the Rev Richard Rowling, curate of St Peter and St Paul at Stokesley, near Middlesbrough.

Mrs Cathy Rowling, aged 31, will be ordained into the Church of England as a deacon at York Minster by Dr John Haggood on March 7, and will take the title reverend with her husband. She has been appointed to Christ Church at Great Ayton.

She is already a deaconess, a lay post in the church, but her ordination will confer the authority to conduct marriages. The only role denied her will be that of presiding at Holy Communion.

A supporter of the campaign for women priests, Mrs Rowling said: "I would like to see it when the time is right, but not at the cost of splitting the church".

Four on Sun charges

Four men appeared at Thames Magistrates' Court yesterday on charges of stealing or receiving copies of *The Sun* newspaper.

John William Devine, aged 48, a dustman, of Rhodeswell Road, Stepney, east London, admitted receiving 30 copies of the newspaper on January 29, knowing them to be stolen, and was fined £25.

David Rhodes, aged 48, a news vendor, of Chingford, Essex, who faced the same

charge, was remanded on bail to February 25.

Martin Jeffrey Spicer, aged 36, a driver, of Pitsea, Essex, charged with dishonestly producing an order slip at News International, east London, on January 29, and with stealing newspapers, was remanded on bail to February 25.

Anthony Thomas, aged 34, a driver, of Hockley, Essex, who admitted two charges of stealing 50 newspapers, worth £6, on December 30 and 31, was remanded to March 12.

Report of protest 'not corrected'

An account in the *Daily Mail* of a dispute at a Ukrainian Catholic Church was not generally inaccurate, the Press Council commented today.

However, the editor failed to correct an inaccuracy, the council said, upholding to that extent a complaint by the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Ltd.

The newspaper reported that Father Stephan Shimkin stopped in mid-sermon during a protest at the Edinburgh church and stormed out to fetch the police. Four members of the congregation were arrested. Previous services had been disrupted by demonstrators.

Mr Iwan Rawluk, the association's general secretary, complained to the editor that the report was maliciously false. It was incorrect, that Father Shimkin stormed out during mid-sermon or that there were other disturbances.

Mr Mac Keene, associate managing editor, told him that the paper's account was based on a long talk with Father Shimkin, and a police officer had confirmed four arrests.

Mr Rawluk later provided the council with eight statements from people at the church. They said Father Shimkin tried to prevent some people entering the church and when they slipped past him he went for the police.

The council's adjudication was:

There was some disorder at St Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Leith, and the service was delayed by protesters. The *Daily Mail*'s account of the incident was not generally inaccurate.

However, the priest did not stop in mid-sermon to call the police as the newspaper reported, an inaccuracy which the editor failed to correct.

To this extent the complaint against the *Daily Mail* is upheld.

Where do the people who check out shops, shop?



The Sunday Times Magazine recently asked twenty Trading Standards Officers where they do their weekly shopping.

Top of the list was Asda, which they praised for being, "acceptable in every material way, fair pricing, a good range of products and well laid out". If we were shopping for compliments, we couldn't have put it better ourselves.

You'd be off your trolley to go anywhere else.



Access and Visa welcome in every department at most stores.





How this man made his office the quietest in history.

For six years, Calvin Coolidge held the highest office in the United States of America — yet it is more than likely that you have never heard of him before.

The reason for this is simple — he hardly ever said anything. The whole country knew its President as 'Silent Cal'. Every time he opened his mouth, it was said, a moth flew out. Alice Roosevelt was even less charitable. "He looks as if he'd been weaned on a pickle," she commented.

Even at an early age, it was clear that he was a man of few words. One day he was having his hair cut in a small barber's shop in Vermont when the town doctor walked in and sat down to wait. "Cal, did you take the pills I gave you?" he asked. Coolidge said nothing for a minute or two, then replied, "Nope!" A little later, the doctor asked, "Are you feeling any better?" After another long pause came the answer: "Yup!" When his haircut was finished, Coolidge started to leave without paying. "Aren't you forgetting something?" asked the barber. "Sorry," said Cal. "I was so busy gossiping with the doctor that it just slipped my mind."

But it was when Coolidge reached the White House in 1923 that he really hit form. He soon learned how to use his taciturnity to his advantage in Congress. Once, a member made an exceptionally long and boring speech in support of some measure, beginning virtually every sentence with the same words:

"Mr Speaker, it is..." After he sat down, Coolidge simply rose and said, "Mr Speaker, it is not!" Everyone roared with laughter and the measure was killed.

Having a quiet office also helped him to get things done more quickly. His successor as governor of Massachusetts once paid him a visit to find out how he had been able to see so many callers every day and yet finish his work at 5 p.m., whereas he now found that he was often detained until nine. "How come the difference?" he asked. "You talk back," replied Coolidge.

When Coolidge left office, he passed on similar advice to Hoover regarding long-winded visitors: "If you keep dead still, they'll run down in three or four minutes."

One would expect a national leader to be a little more forthcoming at an official press conference, however. During the presidential campaign of 1924, he was asked, "Have you any statement on the campaign?" A long pause, then the reply: "No." "Can you tell us something about the world situation?" "No." "Any information about Prohibition?" "No." Then, as the disappointed journalists started to leave, Coolidge said solemnly, "And don't quote me."

The other media of the day were scarcely more successful in getting him to talk. A film cameraman once tried to get some shots

of Coolidge and his wife for a newsreel (silent, of course). "Look pleasant," he told the President, "and for Pete's sake, say something! Anything: good morning or howdy do!" Coolidge actually obliged — but not without muttering to his wife, "That man gets more conversation out of me than all Congress."

Surely a President is expected to make speeches in public from time to time, you may say. Indeed he is — but Coolidge didn't. After he had broken ground for the cornerstone of a new public building, the assembled crowd waited for the customary address — but none came. Finally, the master of ceremonies asked him to say a few words. Coolidge thought for a moment, pointed to the spadeful of earth he had thrown up, said, "That's a mighty fine fishworm," and walked off.

On another occasion, Coolidge's train stopped to pick up coal and water at a small town on the way to St. Louis and a large crowd gathered outside to see him. An aide went into his private carriage and found him fast asleep. Tapping him on the shoulder, he said, "Mr President, sir, there are about twenty-five hundred people waiting to see you." Without a word, Coolidge got up and followed him to the train's observation platform. He gave his official smile and was loudly applauded. Then his wife appeared and was given an even greater ovation. Finally, a local dignitary shouted, "Now, you folks all hush up, y'hear? I want absolute silence. The President of the United States is going to address us." Silence fell. "All right," the man whispered to Coolidge, "you may speak now." Just then, there was a hiss of air as the brakes were released and the train began to roll out of the station. The president, still smiling, raised his hand to the crowd and said, "Goodbye."

As President, Coolidge was naturally obliged to attend many dinners, yet the more relaxed atmosphere of these still did nothing to make him more communicative. At one, he found himself sitting next to a very attractive young lady, but he did not acknowledge her at all. Bringing all her charm to bear, she made her big attempt to engage him in conversation. "Mr President," she chirped, "I have made a bet with my friends that I can get more than two words out of you this evening!" "You lose," grunted Coolidge, and relapsed into his usual silence for the rest of the meal.

His neighbours in Vermont fared no better when they presented him with a special handmade rake. Their spokesman dwelt at length on the qualities of the hickory from which it was made. "Hickory is like the President," he said. "It is sturdy, strong, resilient and unbroken." He then handed the rake to Coolidge who, after examining it closely, merely said: "Ash."

Cal did once invite some friends to cruise with him on the presidential yacht — but in the event, he hardly talked to them either. He spent most of his time alone at the rail of the deck, staring silently out at the water. "Look at him," remarked one guest to the others. "See how he stands with his head bowed over the rail. What great problems afflicting the nation can be burdening this man's mind?" Eventually, Coolidge turned round and joined them, saying, "See that seagull? Been watching it for twenty minutes. Hasn't moved. Think it's dead."

This still leaves one person with whom Coolidge must have talked at some length, however. After all, he couldn't possibly have given his wife the same silent treatment he gave everyone else...could he?

You've guessed it. One Sunday, Mrs Coolidge was unwell, so he went to church on his own. When he returned, she asked what the minister had preached about. After a long pause, he replied, "Sin." "Well, what did he have to say about sin?" she persisted. Cal remained deep in thought for some time and then answered, "He's against it."

When Coolidge finally left the White House in 1929, he was of course too set in his ways to change. A number of his college contemporaries met up in Spain and decided to have a reunion. They sent Coolidge a telegram asking him to send a message to be read out at the dinner — and to make sure that he knew he could say as much as he liked, they made it clear that there would be no cable charges. The dinner was well-attended, and at the climax of the evening, the ex-President's name was mentioned to great applause. When the ovation died down, the message was read: "Greetings, Calvin Coolidge."

Coolidge died in 1933 — and appropriately enough, the final word on his life was spoken by someone else. When Dorothy Parker heard the news that he was dead, her reaction was immediate: "How can they tell?"

You may feel that Coolidge's way of keeping his office quiet is not one that you could adopt yourself. However, there is something else you can do to achieve the same result.

Buy the new Epson SQ2500 computer printer. Unlike some printers, it doesn't make a noise like a cat sliding down a blackboard, so you can use it in your office and you won't know it's there.

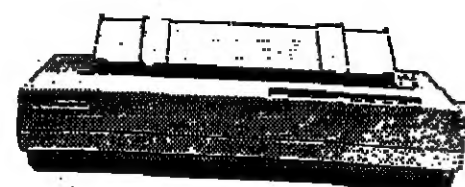
This is because instead of whacking the characters onto the paper, the SQ2500 quietly shoots on astonishingly accurate microdots of ink.

Like Silent Cal, the SQ2500 also gets its work done quickly. It can print an amazing 540 characters per second in draft, and even whizzes along at 180 c.p.s. in correspondence-quality mode (both at 12 c.p.i.). Changing between the five letter-quality fonts takes virtually no time either. All you have to do is press one or two buttons on the LCD 'Selectype' panel on the front.

In addition, the SQ2500 comes with a powerful 8K memory as standard, has an IBM character set and is exceptionally reliable even for an Epson (the print head will produce 1,000 million characters before it needs replacing).

The SQ2500 costs £1345 (RRP exc. VAT). This is more than an ordinary printer, it is true, but when you consider how quiet it will make your office, isn't it worth it?

We'd like to think that Calvin Coolidge would have said yes. (Well — nodded, anyway.)



EPSON

For further information on the SQ2500, either write to Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham, B37 5BR; call up Prestel "2804"; or dial 0800 289622 free of charge.

Fire safety risk in drive for burglar proof homes

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Securing homes against burglars could dangerously hamper escape from fire, a Royal Institute of British Architects seminar was told yesterday.

Mr Simon Ham, an architect and fire consultant, said: "I predict that with increasing pressure on householders to secure their homes there will be a domestic fire tragedy in which the presence of security devices will be seen to be a contributory factor to the deaths of the occupants."

His warning comes in the wake of increased pressure from the Government to prevent crime, with priority being given to deterring entry to property. Residential burglary was on the agenda of a seminar held in June by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to follow up the Prime Minister's crime initiative.

In a decade the number of burglaries recorded by police has increased by more than 92 per cent.

Mr Ham told the seminar on "Safer by Design", held in London: "There are significantly more deaths through fire in housing than in any other occupancy. Although the contribution of security measures to those deaths may be slight, this is a highly emotive and controversial area."

Security is important in buildings, but it must be treated within the context of other design constraints, including consideration of the reasonable needs for the occupants to escape in the event of fire.

More government money is to go on housing security. Mr Richard Tracey, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said that more would be spent on run-down and difficult housing estates by Estate Action (formerly the Urban Housing Renewal Unit).

This year, the first in which it was operational, it would have £50 million to allocate and £75 million next financial year. About £20 million was this year being used on improving the security of estates.

"These measures include controlled entry systems, physical adaptation and re-modelling of estates to reduce opportunities for crime."

"They also include increased local management and human presence, on estates through the provision of new estate offices and on-site managers, caretakers and repair teams and, in some cases, concierge-type arrangements."

In its introduction the programme for the seminar said: "Recent surveys of householders' desires reveal fear of crime and securing the dwelling against it to be the top priority."

Mr Tracey said that security measures should be as normal a part of design for both newly built and converted property as weatherproofing, heating and insulation.

No let-up in number seeking asylum

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Ministers are becoming increasingly concerned about would-be refugees seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom on spurious grounds.

They say that the sudden surge in applications from Sri Lanka, Iran and Turkey has maintained the pressure on immigration officers felt during the latter part of last year, which led to visa requirements for visitors from the Indian sub-continent, Ghana and Nigeria.

All three countries involved have internal political problems, but ministers say many of those applying for refugee status have left home for economic reasons.

The Home Office is now engaged in talks with the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service aimed at speeding the lengthy procedure for checking the validity of claims for political asylum.

There has also been a growth in the numbers of immigrants arriving at UK ports with bogus documents.

Recently, a party of 20 Turks were refused entry after they were found to be travelling on forged passports.

In another case, a party of Tamils changed planes at Heathrow en route to Sweden. But, after they flushed their papers down the aircraft lavatories, they were refused entry in Stockholm and sent back to London. They have since been allowed to enter the UK.

In many of the cases now coming to light, applications are from people travelling from third countries, mainly in Western Europe, where they have taken up residence and to which they are being sent back.



Mrs Ethel Coghlan, aged 74, gathering cockles at Llanrhidian on the Gower peninsula, west Wales, which she has been doing for 61 years (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Fan told mother to call police after riot

A football supporter who saw himself on television after the Heysel stadium disaster in Belgium two years ago asked his mother to ring Merseyside police and give them his name.

Barry Rickman, aged 29, of Chancery Green, Ipswich, one of 26 Liverpool fans before an extradition hearing at Highbury Magistrates' Court, north London, was identifiable by his white T-shirt.

In a statement read by Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, for the crown, Mr Rickman said he was hit on the back and side of his head by concrete thrown by Italian fans.

Another supporter, Keith Reed, aged 21, of Milton Avenue, Liverpool, said he wanted retribution after being attacked by Italians in Rome in 1984.

Gary Rutter, aged 21, of Fishers Lane, Persby, Wirral, went to the police after seeing his photograph in a local newspaper.

The hearing continues today.

Costs threaten to price British TV out of markets

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Television production costs are running out of control and threatening the competitive position of the British programme industry in world media markets, according to a report being studied by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Television programmes produced by traditional broadcasting organizations typically cost 25 per cent more to make than those created by independent producers.

The report, co-sponsored by the department and 21 other organizations, was prepared by the International Institute of Communications, with detailed research and analysis provided by The Goodall Partnership, a London consultancy.

The study found that Britain is well-placed to export television programmes, but is vulnerable to a management culture that had paid little attention to costs.

Mr John Howkins, executive director of the IIC, said new strategies for cost control were needed. "The industry has got to rethink the relationship between production, the editing function and distribution," he said.

Mr Chris Goodall, director of the consultancy, said most broadcasters had "significant scope for cutting costs" and that all of those studied, with the exception of Channel 4, lacked accounting systems to show in detail the cost of producing programmes.

The IIC study is expected to provide additional ammunition to the Government in its effort to carve a larger role for independent producers. It also shows the vulnerability of broadcasters, including the BBC and traditional ITV companies, to competition from independents, who are able to undercut their costs.

Data for the study was provided by Channel 4, TVS, TV Ontario and a number of European broadcasters.

Worry over robberies drove vicar to suicide

A vicar hanged himself with a bell rope after a spate of robberies at his church, an inquest at Walthamstow, east London, was told yesterday.

The Rev Frank Raynes, aged 57, was "particularly depressed" by the raids in which he was threatened and money was stolen.

His wife Shirley, aged 55, found his body hanging from the belfry at St Paul's Church, Cross Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex.

She told the inquest: "On one occasion the safe was broken into and a number of

times he was exposed to threats by people demanding money. He was concerned about security at the church and was frightened of opening the door at night."

Mr Raynes was seeing a psychiatrist at the time because he was also feeling miserable about health problems. He had suffered bouts of depression for 25 years and had twice taken overdose. Dr Harold Price, the coroner, recorded that Mr Raynes killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

Council is told to pay for arcade appeal

The campaign by local councils against amusement arcades has been dealt a blow by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

He has ordered Canterbury City Council to pay the costs of a planning appeal, estimated at £5,000, which overturned the council's refusal of consent for an amusement arcade at Whitstable.

Mr Ridley ruled that the Canterbury councillors had let their personal views influence their decision.

Boy hanged himself after girl's rebuff

Glenn Harrison, aged 14, was shattered when his girl friend ended their romance, an inquest at Dereham, Norfolk, was told yesterday. He hanged himself on a linen post.

His friend, Vicki Barker, aged 15, told the inquest how she broke with Harrison, of Hindringham, Norfolk, because she thought their relationship was too serious.

He telephoned and told the girl: "I thought you might like to know I am going to hang myself."

Miss Barker said: "I said 'do it. Go ahead. I don't care.'"

The coroner recorded a verdict that the boy killed himself by hanging.

Bank manager stole retarded girl's money

A Barclays Bank manager who stole £5,375 from a mentally retarded girl's trust fund was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for nine months with six months suspended.

Gavin Parkes, aged 52, of Kingswinford, near Wolverhampton, manager of the West Bromwich branch, admitted four counts of theft and two of forgery over 12 months from May 1984.

Mr Stephen Campbell, for the prosecution, said Mr John Nelson had left a £11,000 trust fund at Parkes's bank for his daughter, Mary. Parkes and a relative of Miss Nelson were co-trustees of the fund.

Plenty of quality fish and prices are down

The weather has been kind to fishermen and there are excellent supplies of quality fish available for the weekend. Prices are lower than they have been for many weeks.

The wide selection includes cod from Aberdeen at an average £1.90 a lb, coley about £1.20, Scottish herrings 70p, Cornish mackerel 75p, sprats from Southend 50p, monkfish £3.30, brill £2.50, and haddock £2.35.

There are Loch Fyne kippers at £1.20 and smoked haddock at an average £1.89 a lb. Recommended shellfish are mussels from 35p pint, hard-back clams 25p each, and scallops at 50p each.

Rump steak is down 7p a lb to an average £3.13 a lb in the south-east of England. Home-produced lamb prices are also down in that area from 1p to 3p a lb on all cuts. Whole leg ranges from £1.39 to £2.58 a lb, and loin chops from £1.24 to £3.65 a lb.

New Zealand lamb is unchanged from whole leg which is up between 2p and 4p a lb to an average £1.53 a lb. Pork prices are steady, whole leg is £1.07, loin chops £1.45, and boneless shoulder £1.39 a lb.

There is a good selection of plums from the Cape and Chile between 50-90p a lb. Among the wide selection of citrus fruits available look out for the jaffa sweetie grapefruit at 20-40p each, delicious clementines 30-55p a lb.

New this week are ruby red oranges at 7p-9p each and oranges, a cross between an orange and a tangerine, 20-25p each. It is the end of the season for satsumas, 35-45p a lb, and navel oranges, 20-30p a lb.

Supplies and prices of home-grown vegetables are back to normal apart from cauliflowers which are still scarce and very expensive at 70p to £1 each.

Salad ingredients are scarce and rather dear. Iceberg lettuce 60p-£1, cucumber 75p-£1 each, and tomatoes 60-85p a lb.

Some meat and poultry on promotion at shops and supermarkets this week are Marks & Spencer fresh chicken down 13p a lb to 69 and 75p a pound depending on size. Dewhurst 4lb-packs of braising steak, ground beef and all diced stewing beef £5.60 a pack. Bejams New Zealand leg of lamb £1.19 a lb. Presto steak and kidney £1.09, and boneless four quarter roasting beef £1.48 a lb. Asda home-produced fresh/frozen leg of pork 89p a lb, and 3lb-packs of frozen chicken thighs £1.99. Sainsbury's whole leg of pork 72p a lb, and fresh chicken 59p a lb.

CHANNEL TUNNEL BILL

People directly or materially affected by the proposals contained in the Channel Tunnel Bill are reminded that the Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords and that any petitions against the Bill are to be deposited not later than Wednesday, 18 February, with the Clerk of Private Bills in the House of Lords.

The House is expected to set a later date for the receipt of petitions against amendment. This date may be obtained on application to the House of Lords Private Bill Office on 01-219 3231.

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* Details of monthly interest rates are available from any Abbey National branch.

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Amount of Loan	Term	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Payable*	APR*
£ 5,000	5 yrs	£112.10	£ 6,814	14.0%
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*These figures include arrangement fee of £50 and typical security expenses of £38.

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How much?

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Naturally, we'll take your income and outgoings into account. The last thing we want is for you to take on obligations you can't really afford.

The only additional costs will be a £50 arrangement fee (this is waived for existing Midland mortgage holders), plus any administrative costs incurred through using your house as security.

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Costs aren't as low as the Home Improvement Loan but they're still pretty good. APR is 16.3% variable, and that's lower than most other kinds of borrowing with this flexibility (including our own Save & Borrow Account currently standing at a competitive APR of 20.9%).

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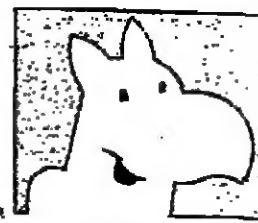
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Please send me details of ☐ Home Improvement Loan ☐ HomeOwner Reserve

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☐ I am not under 18. ☐ I am/am not a Midland Bank customer.



150-151

WORLD SUMMARY

US move to ease worries on SDI

Washington — The US is considering sending Mr Paul Nitze, the veteran arms control adviser, and General Edward Rowley, a former arms negotiator, on a tour to consult nervous allies on its intentions concerning the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty and SDI (Michael Binyon writes).

This would be in response to promises given by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, that the Administration would not change its interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty or speed up deployment of elements of the SDI programme without first consulting with Congress and the allies.

But Mr Shultz repeated to Congress that any decision to deploy space defences was at least two years away, and each phase had to meet the criteria of survivability and cost-effectiveness.

He told the House appropriations defence sub-committee: "It has to be technically feasible, it has to be cost-effective at the margin".

Leading article, page 17

Russian Aids count

Moscow — The first official statistics released by the Kremlin on incidence of Aids inside the Soviet Union showed that all but one of the 20 cases so far recorded have been foreigners (Christopher Walker writes).

The statistics were announced at a press briefing by Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, who claimed that the almost complete absence of the disease could be mainly explained because "the sexual revolution bypassed us".

Although the Soviet Union did not in general have the problem of Aids being transmitted by drug users with dirty syringes, Mr Gerasimov did acknowledge that there was one Soviet girl who had contracted the disease in that way.

Press still restricted Gang nets millions

Johannesburg — President Botha of South Africa said last night that his Government had to maintain press restrictions imposed under the state of emergency because the media had failed to establish "effective procedures to regulate themselves" (Michael Hornsby writes).

A meeting today between the Newspaper Press Union, to which the four main English and Afrikaans newspaper groups belong, and a special Cabinet committee has been cancelled.

Detainee doubts, page 11

Giscard out of race

Paris — The announcement by former President Giscard d'Estaing that he is not in the race for the 1988 presidential elections may have helped to clarify the field, but has done little to heal the deep divisions within the ruling right-wing coalition (Diana Geddes writes).

Despite various attempted come-backs since his defeat in 1981, M Giscard (below), who is 61, has never succeeded in winning more than moderate public support.

His rating in the opinion polls has consistently trailed behind that of M Raymond Barre and M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, who are the two most likely right-wing candidates for 1988.

In some ways, therefore, his announcement during a television interview on Wednesday did not come as a surprise. On the other hand, some feel he has still left the door slightly ajar.



Hawke's dilemma

Sydney — The Hawke Government is expected to announce this month what it intends to do about 70 suspected Nazi war criminals who are believed to be living in Australia (Stephen Taylor writes).

For more than two months, Canberra has been sitting meekly on a report by a special investigator appointed last year after claims in a TV programme that war criminals managed to gain entry to Australia after the war.



Bombers hit Iran

Tehran (Reuters) — At least 10 people were reported killed or wounded in an Israeli air raid on Tehran yesterday, one of several attacks on Iranian cities. Tehran radio said two children were among the victims of two bombs that fell on the capital.

The radio said more people were killed or wounded when Iraqi warplanes hit residential areas in the western cities of Hamadan, Ilam, Malayer, Sanandaj and Zanjan.

Palestinian women take to streets in protest as Amal refuse to lift siege

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

Holding bundles of flat Arab bread over their heads, scores of Palestinian women and children yesterday marched through west Beirut, vowing to stage daily demonstrations until the siege of Palestinian refugee camps is lifted.

It was the latest expression of Palestinian street outrage, following news that thousands of civilians were starving inside the besieged Bourj al-Barajneh and Chatila camps in Beirut and in Rashidiyeh, just south of Tyre.

The camps have been under siege by the Shia Muslim Amal militia for almost 15 weeks. The women, who yesterday were demanding an immediate solution to a war that has taken too inhuman a toll, were saying that they were ready to cross the front lines with food for their compatriots if their words were not heeded.

In front of them, Sheikh Hassan Khaled, the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, who received them in Dar el-Ifta, the supreme Sunni Muslim council, confessed how sad he felt over

since the war between Shia Muslims and Palestinians began almost two years ago. High above, the contrails of two high-flying Israeli aircraft twisted over central Lebanon.

All the marching women were refugees who had left the camps shortly before and during the war.

Italy will send food and medicines worth about £5 million for the relief of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday (Reuters reports from Rome). The supplies are to be delivered to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

The latest conventional attempt to send food and medical aid into the Bourj al-Barajneh camp was indefinitely postponed by the Amal militia on Wednesday. Five days before that, three young Palestinians were shot dead

and their lorryload of rice burnt at the gates of Bourj al-Barajneh.

Yesterday United Nations workers were still waiting for permission from Amal to enter the camps for the first time, as it would be for the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has so far tried in vain.

In Tunis, Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was said to have already held discussions with French officials on ways to help the Palestinian refugees trapped in the camps. This came shortly after King Hassan of Morocco had offered to parachute supplies into Chatila and Bourj al-Barajneh.

In Vienna, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky declared that Austria would send immediate food and medicine to both Amal and the Palestinians to avoid provoking jealousy.

Amal officials in Beirut simply said "maybe tomorrow" when asked when the siege would be lifted, at least to allow emergency help into the camps.



A Beirut Palestinian family waiting for news of menfolk still trapped in one of the camps.

Israeli aircraft raid Sidon targets

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli aircraft yesterday attacked guerrilla targets in the Sidon area, an Army spokesman announced. All aircraft returned safely to base and the pilots reported hits. Targets included buildings on the outskirts of the Miyeh-Miyeh refugee camp, which were used as guerrilla headquarters. Israel has been making

known its concern about the Palestinian build-up in southern Lebanon, particularly in the Sidon area. Last week an Israeli naval patrol intercepted an Egyptian freighter on route from Cyprus to Lebanon and apprehended some 50 passengers alleged to be members of Mr Yasser Arafat's Fatah.

Bridges across the river will be closed for 48 hours from this morning as new search procedures are introduced.

BEIRUT: Witnesses reported that two civilians were killed, and at least six other people, three of them Palestinian guerrillas, wounded during yesterday's attack, Israel's fifth this year.

Jerusalem denial of prisoner deal

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

There is no basis to reports that Israel is negotiating a prisoner exchange, the State Attorney's office in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The denial was included in the state's response to the petition submitted to the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking an order nisi preventing the Government from

exchanging terrorists held in Israel for prisoners of war or hostages in Lebanon.

The state said that the matter was being dealt with, taking full notice of the pain of the bereaved families who had submitted the petition as well as various political and security considerations. It emphasized the duty owed by the

state to its captive soldiers and their families.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, decided not to discuss the petition, which was submitted by the families of seven Israelis killed in terrorist attacks, pending a police investigation of a demonstration inside the court by the petitioners.

Britain in clash over visa office

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

An urgent Foreign Office damage limitation exercise was under way yesterday to prevent the escalation of a dispute with Nigeria.

Nigeria has ordered Britain to close its new visa issuing office in Lagos today, only 13 days after it opened. Just 48 hours notice was given.

Britain responded with deliberate abruptness by announcing immediate closure. No new applications will be handled except medical emergencies. Even Nigerian diplomats will be affected.

The official reason for the closure demand was that the office was causing traffic chaos.

A more plausible explanation was thought to be that it is close to the entrance to Dodan barracks, where President Babangida works. It was thought that officials feared traffic congestion could compromise his security.

Whitehall sources believe the Nigerians failed to appreciate the effect of the closure order. But if a quick solution is not found they will conclude that a darker signal about Anglo-Nigerian relations was intended.

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Aid groups say Mozambique is facing food catastrophe

By Nicholas Beeson

Four million Mozambicans face hunger and destitution unless they receive emergency aid, Britain's two largest overseas aid agencies said yesterday, when they launched an appeal for public support.

In their first-ever joint emergency appeal, Save the Children and Oxfam announced a £4.5 million relief operation for the southern African state, where millions of people in the north have been made homeless by the civil war.

The agencies said they required initial public donations of more than £1 million to provide for basic immediate needs in the worst-hit northern region. The bulk of the aid is being donated by the Overseas Development Administration and the EEC.

The three worst-affected provinces are Zambezia, Tete and Niassa, where insurgents have been most active and destructive. The British operation will concentrate on providing cereals, foods, seeds, tools and improved transport for Zambezia. Other international agencies are co-ordinating operations in the other provinces.

Nearly one million people have fled their villages in Zambezia because of the scorched-earth operations of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR, also known as Renamo), who are fighting the Soviet-sponsored government troops.

"If we act now the worst can be averted and thousands of lives can be saved," said Mr Nicholas Hinton, the director-general of Save the Children Fund, which has been working closely with Oxfam in Mozambique since 1983.

According to the United Nations, Mozambique and its African ally Angola have the highest infant mortality rate in the world, with about 360 small children dying every day.

Both charities said that the crisis was not yet on the same scale as the famine which gripped Ethiopia and other Horn of Africa countries two years ago, but they warned that without donations for emergency relief Mozambique faced a similar catastrophe.

A special UN mission is expected in Maputo next week to evaluate the situation.



Workers protesting in Athens yesterday against the Government's austerity programme.

Explosion in Athens as million stop work

From Mario Modiano
Athens

A bomb damaged a branch of the Greek Finance Ministry in central Athens early yesterday as more than one million workers began their second national strike this year in protest against economic austerity and shrinking incomes.

The left-wing extremist group Revolutionary Popular Struggle, which claimed responsibility for the bomb attack, said in a proclamation that it was directed against the Socialist Government's "extremist onslaught on the wages and incomes of the proletariat".

The strike paralyzed much of Greek industry, banks, postal services and telecommunications. It disrupted public transport and hospitals, and left city rubbish uncollected. It was called by the General Confederation of Greek Workers which, significantly, is controlled by the ruling Socialists, and was accompanied by protest rallies in several cities.

The labour unrest is expected to continue, with a national strike by civil servants and public sector workers on Monday and Tuesday. The unions are pressing the Government to end the virtual pay freeze imposed 16 months ago.

Egyptian referendum

Electoral reforms will leave real power to Mubarak

From Ian Murray, Cairo

Egypt's 14 billion registered voters were given the chance in a referendum yesterday to say whether they wanted more democracy. When the result is announced tomorrow, nobody will be surprised if the polls have been accurate in predicting that at least 96 per cent will say "Yes".

Understandably, therefore, this sixteenth referendum in the history of modern Egypt has caused little excitement. There seems almost as much newsworthy devoted to the arrival of "the crown of the English theatre" - the Watermill Company - to perform Tom Stoppard's play *The Real Thing*.

It is not clear how real a thing the new Egyptian democracy will be after the referendum, but it will be surprising if President Mubarak has lost any real power. The plan is that a "Yes" vote

President's chance to bring Egypt out of the cold and back to a central place

will lead to elections on April 9 under new rules allowing independents to stand for the first time as candidates for the People's Assembly.

But the new rules still require any party to win 8 per cent of the national vote to win seats, while an independent has to obtain 20 per cent support in any of the 48 constituencies in order to enter the assembly. The five legal opposition parties are likely to announce tomorrow that they will continue an electoral pact to join forces in the hope of winning up to 35 per cent of the vote and returning a third of the members to the 443-seat assembly.

Even the most optimistic of them does not believe there is any chance of toppling the National Democratic Party, which will certainly give President Mubarak a second six-year term in October. There is likely to be a larger opposition in the new assembly, but not big enough to make the President do anything he does not want to do.

For the next six years, therefore, diplomats expect him to go on trying to restore Egypt to the preminent position in the Arab world it lost after signing the peace treaty with Israel in 1979. After his welcome at the Islamic conference in Kuwait last week, there are more and more signs he is succeeding.

On Tuesday Mr Tarek Al-Muayyad, the Bahraini Information Minister, arrived to tell the President that the Arab world was now showing that "a desire for change and co-operation really exists with Cairo".

On Wednesday Mr Chazli El-Qallibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, said in an interview that he had always supported Egypt's return to the League because it represented a force in the Arab world and it was not natural for "this great country" to be excluded from the Arab community.

Egypt played host yesterday to delegations from 45 African and Asian nations meeting to find a way of ending the Gulf War. The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Arabia* commented that "Egypt has rejoined the ranks of its Arab partners".

If no other Arab country has yet shown signs of following Jordan's example in restoring diplomatic relations with Cairo, rumours grow that Morocco may soon do so. More practically, it seems that Saudi Arabia has started sending much needed cash to help patch up the tattered Egyptian economy, and wealthy Arabs are returning to Egypt in force for holidays, exotic weddings and business.

At the same time, the President is scrupulously, if coldly, doing as much as is necessary to keep the United States happy that he is honouring the peace treaty with Israel. On Tuesday Mr Essam Abdel Meguid, the

Arab world now showing desire exists for change and co-operation with Cairo



President Mubarak voting in yesterday's referendum.

Foreign Minister, had a regular meeting with Mr Moshe Sasson, the Israeli Ambassador. In Jerusalem, officials insist that the atmosphere between the two countries is constantly improving, despite Egypt's continued attempts to keep on good terms with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

While honouring the peace treaty which ensures that American aid continues, the President wants to keep his superpower option open. The Soviet Empire is increasingly back in business. A symposium of Soviet-Egyptian dialogues opened here yesterday, and the Kremlin is being encouraged to believe that it is once more a role it can play in the area.

President Mubarak's foreign policy has so far been a delicate balancing act, with another six-year looking assured, he has chance to bring Egypt's cold back to its place at the centre of the world.

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East Germans dismiss Gorbachov reform

Bonn (NYT) - East Germany's communist leadership has given a strong signal that it is not enthusiastic about Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's calls for "openness" and "democratization", and that it does not intend to imitate the Soviet Union's outlined reforms.

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German party chief, and the state-run press have recently praised the country's economic and political system but have avoided mentioning Mr Gorbachov's initiatives.

Departing from custom, the East German press gave only a summary of the Soviet leader's speech to the Communist Party's Central Committee in Moscow last month, rather than printing the full text.

"We do not need to hide our light under a bushel," Herr Honecker told a gathering of party officials in East Berlin last Friday, asserting in a long speech that the country had an "exemplary" economy.

Without once mentioning the Gorbachov programme, Herr Honecker insisted that "socialist democracy" had demonstrated itself to be far superior to its "bourgeois" variant and "did not need to be replaced by anything".

Specialists on East Germany said his emphatic proclamation of success not only betrayed a certain nervousness about the proposed changes in the Soviet Union, but also reflected the self-confidence of a nation that is widely regarded as Moscow's wealthiest ally in Eastern Europe.

"When for 10 years one has proclaimed that one has the best system, one cannot suddenly say that one is going to have secret elections because

they are doing it in Moscow," said Frau Ilse Spit, editor of the *Deutscher Archiv* in Cologne.

There has been little doubt that the Soviet Union dissatisfied with East Germany's tightly run system.

During a visit to East Berlin this month, the Foreign Minister, Mr Giergiele, praised the German "successes".

The Soviet Government yesterday published a setting out the rules which the state monopolies catering establishments country is to be ended.

permission granted for restaurants and snack bars to be run by small co-operatives, (Christopher Walker from Moscow).

The decree, an essential of the economic reform programme, also covered setting up of co-operatives producing consumer goods and providing consumer services. It said that the groups would be composed mainly of students, housewives and pensioners. Workers from the state labour force may join, but must keep their regular jobs.

ing its "achievements have inspired us".

In an interview published on Tuesday by the West German daily *Die Welt*, Mr Valentin Falin, the head of the Novosti press agency and a close adviser of Mr Gorbachov, said that, although Moscow had considered its own "positive and negative experiences", it had no recipe for change that it expected its allies to follow.

Dr. J. W. S. D.

Contra crisis of money and morale as rebel chief threatens to resign

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A crisis of morale and money that is threatening the very existence of the Nicaraguan Contras escalated sharply yesterday with an announcement by Señor Arturo Cruz, the rebels' most credible leader, that he plans to resign. The Reagan Administration is working feverishly behind the scenes to persuade him to stay.

The move came amid a highly public and embarrassing row within the State Department over assessments of United States policy in Central America, culminating in the resignation of a leading official who accused Mr Elliot Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, of "McCarthyism".

The turmoil both within the Administration and the Contras' hierarchy is immensely damaging to the rebels' cause on Capitol Hill, where support for the US-backed war against the Nicaraguan Government is disintegrating rapidly.

The Reagan Administration is gloomy about the prospects of Contra success. Its request for \$105 million (£70 million) in rebel aid for the fiscal year beginning this October. It is confident, however, that Congress will not block \$40 million that has

already been allocated for imminent release.

If Señor Cruz goes, survival prospects for the Contras will be even more bleak. He is the only leader acceptable to most congressmen who have in the past backed the rebels. He believes that political initiatives should be launched, but his moderate policies have been overwhelmed by the militaristic approach of his co-leaders, especially Señor Adolfo Calero, who heads the main insurgent force.

Señor Cruz is a former Sandinista ambassador to Washington who became disillusioned with the revolution. He is one of three members of the Contras' umbrella group, the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), which is on the verge of collapse because of its widespread internal feuding.

Attempts are under way in Miami, where the main rebel leadership is based, to patch together another coalition called the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

There is talk of bringing back Señor Edén Pastora, a former Sandinista war hero-turned-rebel who left the insurgency over an internal feud eight months ago. He

operated mainly out of Costa Rica and the Reagan Administration found him immensely difficult to deal with. A reorganization plan is due to be discussed by the UNO in Costa Rica later this month.

Mr Abrams said that no single Contra leader had more credibility than Señor Cruz.

"There just isn't anybody who symbolizes the struggle for democracy in Nicaragua more than Arturo Cruz. I hope he does not leave. It would be terrible," he said.

Mr Francis McNeil, one of the State Department's most widely respected Latin America experts and a former ambassador to Costa Rica, this week made public the text of a resignation letter he had sent to Mr Abrams.

He wrote: "I am leaving the foreign service in response to your exercise in McCarthyism. Confusing candour with disloyalty is a disservice to American interests and traditions."

He said in an interview that he had endured the humiliation of a months-long investigation about whether he was a security risk because Mr Abrams had accused him of leaking information to the press.



Dr Royal Durham, aged 92, holding one of two certificates posted to him in 1917 and which took 70 years to arrive, an apparent record. Sent while he was serving in France, they have just been delivered to his New Jersey home. This one promotes him to first lieutenant.

EEC budget row puts research on Aids in jeopardy

From Our Correspondent, Brussels

A squabble over the EEC budget for 1987 last night threatened to postpone spending on a £5.4 million programme for Aids research and for the exchange of medical information on the disease.

There will be no cash for vital programmes of this sort because of a dispute over a tiny fraction — less than two thousandths — of the £25 billion EEC budget.

Also at risk were the hard-won reforms in the farming sector, where compensation to farmers for cuts in milk and beef production could not be met out of EEC funds.

European Community budget ministers started their talks last night faced with a stark choice: either lose spending programmes worth hundreds of millions of pounds or lose face with the European Parliament.

The budget row, which is centred on a figure of £45 million, also threatened multi-million pound spending programmes on the fishing industry, social policy and high-technology research.

It has loomed over the European Community ever since the European Parliament refused to accept a 1987 budget draft set out by EEC budget ministers last year.

Budget ministers have hauled

to the Parliament because EEC law says that the Parliament cannot demand increased outlays without ministerial approval. The quantities involved are small, but the effect on 1987 spending is dramatic.

Without an official budget, the EEC can spend no more each month than one twelfth of all 1986 spending.

Although expenditure can be juggled between different priorities, no money can go to programmes that did not exist last year.

Aids research and many other spending programmes were not budgeted for in 1986, and no expenditure is allowed for them under the monthly "twelfths" system.

The European Parliament and the European Commission have offered a compromise. They argue that the £45 million shortfall should be placed in a so-called "negative reserve". Under the compromise, financial allocations for programmes underspent in 1987 could be written off to the tune of £45 million, thus balancing the budget in the longer term.

But a number of EEC governments have rejected the compromise proposal on principle. They argue that most national exchequers are being forced to adopt severely restricted budgets.

State of emergency

Pretoria figures on detainees attacked

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr Adrian Vlok, the South African Minister of Law and Order, yesterday tabled in Parliament a list of the names of about 4,000 people who had been detained under the national state of emergency in force since June 12 of last year.

Mr Vlok said that a number of youths were "unfortunately" among the detainees, including three under the age of 12, 18 under the age of 13, 91 under the age of 14, and 169 under the age of 15.

The statement by Mr Vlok brings to roughly 13,300 the number of people Pretoria has admitted detaining under the emergency. The figure was immediately attacked by the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) and the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee (DPSC) as incomplete.

Under the Public Safety Act, the Government is required to release to Parliament only the names of people held for 30 days or longer.

Mr Vlok maintained yesterday that, even if people held for less than 30 days were included, the number of emergency detainees since June 12 was still nothing like the figure of 25,000 estimated by the PFP and the DPSC.

He did not produce any figures to support this statement. Nor did he say how many people were in custody. The PFP and the DPSC

reckon that between 5,000 and 10,000 are still in jail, mainly leaders and rank-and-file members of the United Democratic Front.

Mrs Helen Suzman, the PFP's champion of civil liberties, said yesterday that she believed "many thousands" of people had been held for periods of less than 30 days and had been excluded from the Government's figures.

She also made the point that, while South African law defines children as persons under the age of 18, Mr Vlok did not say how many detainees were aged 16 and 17, believed to be one of the largest groups. Nor was it known how many people were being held separately under the Internal Security Act.

Mrs Suzman said: "The whole system of detention without trial, although more particularly when applied to children, is a disgrace to a civilized country, which South Africa purports to be."

Mr Vlok claimed that children as young as 12 had acted as "judges" in "people's courts" in black townships and had sentenced people to death.

He said that young children had taken part in "the public burning of live people by way of, for instance, the so-called necklacing method".

The "necklacing" is township jargon for a petrol-filled rubber tyre, placed round the victim's neck and set alight.

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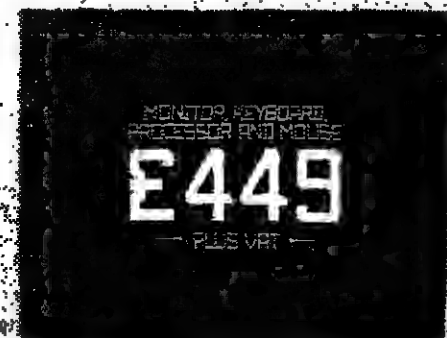
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Whey row curdles Germany

Bonn — West Germany's contaminated milk powder scandal took a new twist yesterday when Herr Walter Wulffmann, the Environment Minister, disclosed that another 2,000 tonnes of radioactive powdered whey, in addition to 5,000 tonnes sent to army depots on Wednesday, was stored in Bavaria (John England writes).

The Greens Party in Bonn said it may demand an investigation into payment of £1.3 million compensation to the Bavarian dairy firm that made the powder from radioactive milk after the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Nun captured

Lisbon (AFP) — Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, or Renamo, kidnapped Sister Gabriela Cardoso, a Portuguese nun and wounded two other foreign church workers in an ambush in the north.

Four missing

St Denis (Reuters) — Four people were reported missing on the Indian Ocean island of Réunion which has been battered by high winds and torrential rain.

Death dance

Bangkok (AFP) — Five people were killed and 32 wounded when a hand grenade was hurled onto a crowded dance stage at a Buddhist temple fair in north-eastern Thailand.

Invisible art

Milan (Reuters) — Officials at Milan's Brera art gallery admitted that a Modigliani painting worth nearly £1 million had been stolen without their noticing.

Sikhs fool police in £3m raid

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Sikh terrorists got away with 57 million rupees (£3 million) — the largest cash haul ever made in a robbery in independent India — when they fooled police yesterday and looted a bank in the industrial town of Ludhiana in the troubled north Indian state of Punjab.

The robbers — some disguised as policemen — telephoned police to say that there had been a robbery in another bank some distance away, then had a clear run as the police went in the wrong direction.

Fifteen terrorists, some wearing police uniforms, went to a branch of the Punjab National Bank and began checking weapons and ammunition of policemen there.

They took rifles and 250 rounds from the two guards before taking the cash from a store maintained in the bank by the Reserve Bank of India, and escaping in a van.

Meanwhile, the beleaguered Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, received some support from colleagues as several members of his party, the Akali Dal, appealed to the five Sikh high priests to reconsider their decision to excommunicate him.

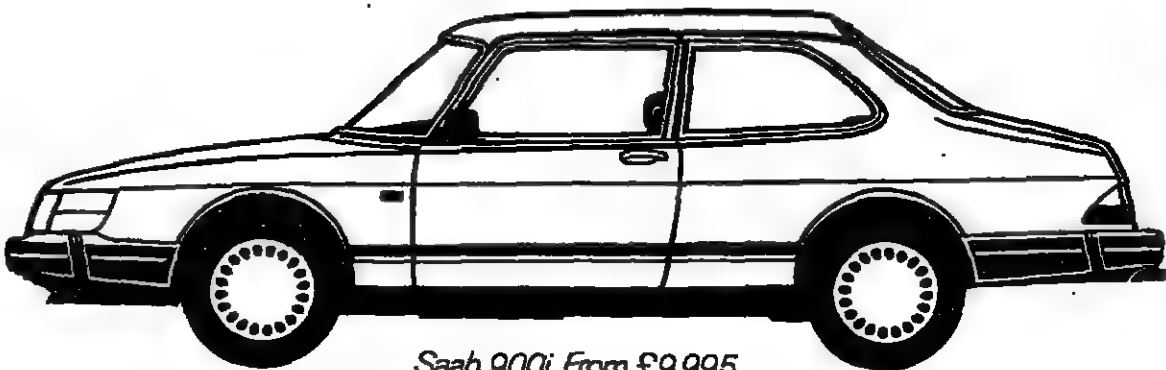
Statements from Akali groups around the state indicated that a movement of hostility towards the action of the high priests was building up, and that it was possible that Sikhs would not tolerate extremist attempts against the elected government.

But Mr Balwant Singh, the state Finance Minister said intellectuals and theologians should now try to find a way out of the mess.

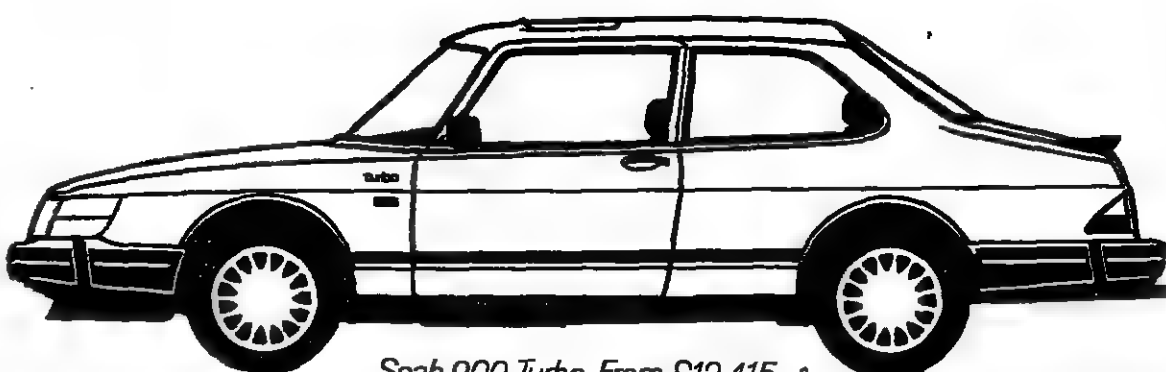
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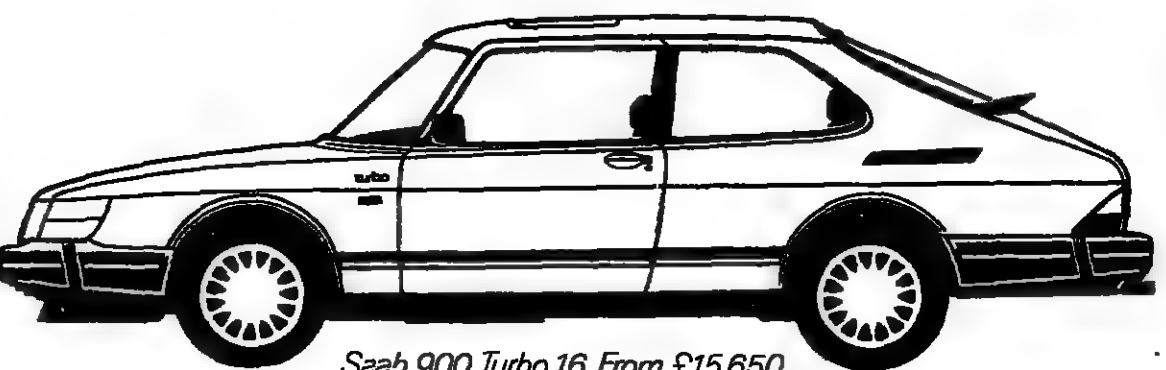
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Chinese are urged to rein in students

From Robert Grieser, Peking

Mr Deng Liqun, one of China's senior ideologues and a former Communist Party propaganda chief, yesterday called on citizens to persuade students in their neighbourhoods to concentrate on their studies and preserve social stability.

University students across China are enjoying the last week of their month-long break. There has been widespread speculation in Peking and other large cities that, while at home, the students have been comparing notes with friends from other universities.

It is feared that further student demonstrations, similar to those that swept China in December and early January, could occur this spring.

In a lengthy speech made to social workers and Communist Youth League members, and published in leading newspapers and broadcast on Peking radio yesterday, Mr Deng said that such demonstrations "if not handled well" would "influence the social order and stability and unity of the country".

"If the political situation of stability and unity is undermined, no one will be in the mood to carry out construction and there will be no hope

for the country to get rid of the situation of poverty and backwardness."

Mr Deng, Mao Tse-tung's secretary when party leaders were gathered in the Yan'an caves in the 1930s, was the party's propaganda chief from March 1982 until he was dismissed after the end of his "anti-spiritual pollution campaign" in 1983.

That six-month campaign, which lasted six months, attacked things Western, such as disco music, provocative female clothing and make-up, and consumerism.

It is feared in some Chinese circles that Mr Deng's influence may be rising again within the party.

He strongly linked education with "ideological work", and said that students at all levels must learn party ideology.

Standard set: Mr Ma Yuzhen, director of the information department of the Foreign Ministry, has told foreign correspondents working in China that there should be no mistake about what the Government believes is "acceptable behaviour" by them.

He asked if it was "acceptable" for photographs to be taken in a restricted military area or for "confidential information of the state" to be collected "by means of money or other unlawful means".

Mr Ma was speaking in response to a Western reporter's question concerning the expulsion on January 30 of Mr Lawrence MacDonald, an American journalist who worked for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse, in Peking, for allegedly receiving "confidential information" from a university student in the port city of Tianjin in December.

Mr Ma apparently referred, in his first example, to the case of Mr John Burns, a New York Times correspondent expelled in July for travelling in a restricted military zone without authorization. The second example apparently referred to Mr MacDonald.

Asked if he meant that Mr MacDonald was accused of having bribed students for information, Mr Ma would not comment further.

Canadian Tories slide to third place amid corruption allegations

From John Best, Ottawa

Just a few days earlier, Mr Mulroney, the Prime Minister, was himself the target of charges that, in 1985, he personally intervened in a lawsuit in which his senior adviser, Mr Fred Doucet, was the defendant. His effort to get the action stopped was unsuccessful.

Mr Mulroney's response was to reject the reports as "speculation, unfounded rumours, and unproven allegations".

Still simmering away in the background is the so-called "Oerlikon affair", in which the Swiss arms manufacturer, Oerlikon Buhle, was charged nearly \$3 million (£1.5 million) for 100 acres of land at Saint-Jean, Quebec, which only 11 days earlier had sold for a third of that amount.

Three months after the transaction was made, the Swiss company was awarded a billion-dollar contract to build an anti-aircraft system for the Canadian Forces.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are investigating whether there was any criminal action in the series of ownership changes that drove up the value of the land, and a junior minister has already been fired from the Cabinet.



Mr Mulroney: dismissed "unfounded rumours".

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Philippine left seeks US atom ban

From David Watts, Manila

Left-wing groups are starting a new campaign to have American nuclear weapons banned from the Philippines.

Led by the Campaign for a Sovereign Philippines, the protest starts today with a motorcade to Clark Air Base, north of Manila, which is considered one of the United States' most important foreign military installations. When they reach the base, the protesters will demand access to any nuclear weapons there and serve the military with an eviction order for 1991, when the present agreement ends.

The left is taking its cue from a provision in the country's new constitution, approved last week, which provides for a nuclear-free Philippines.

The constitution states: "The Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory."

The military bases agreement obliges the US Government to inform Manila about the weapons systems deployed at the bases. The left is likely to try to put pressure on the Aquino Government to disclose whether nuclear weapons are among them.

In an interview, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the former Defence Minister, who served in that position for most of the Marcos era, said during that period it was well understood that the US brought nuclear weapons into its bases on board aircraft and vessels at Subic Bay and Clark, but none was ever stored there.

Mr Enrile, a Harvard-trained lawyer, said that, be-

cause of the way the new constitution was framed, there was no ambiguity about the drafters' intention to ban nuclear weapons.

The bases are irreplaceable, in the view of US military men, because as logistics centres they give American military power to be projected throughout the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and up to the Gulf. They would also be virtually impossible to replace anywhere else in the region.

Mr Stephen Bosworth, the American Ambassador, said in a recent television interview that he did not think the nuclear-free clause would become an issue.

President Aquino has said that she will review the bases agreement at the time of its expiry and has not committed herself one way or the other.

Actor tries to rebuild UN image

The actor Kris Kristofferson (left) being made up for a press conference after taping a public service announcement for the United Nations intended to offset the negative image of UN peacekeepers given in the television mini-series *America*, in which he starred.

In *America*, UN peacekeepers are portrayed as the paramilitary arm of the Soviet occupiers of America and are shown as rapists and murderers (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes from New York).

The 30-second announcement, being distributed to the main US television networks, has Mr Kristofferson praising the UN's record and paying tribute to the 700 UN soldiers who "have given their lives in the cause of peace".

Criticism of the film brought accusations against the ABC television network of everything from promoting right-wing propaganda to treating the invading Russians in the film too sympathetically.



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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report February 13 1987

Court of Appeal

No participation in abortion

Regina v Salford Health Authority, Ex parte Janaway
Before Mr Justice Nolan
[Judgment February 12]

A medical receptionist employed at a health centre who refused to type doctors' letters referring patients for abortions and who was dismissed for refusing to carry out her duties, was not entitled to the protection of the conscientious objection clause contained in section 4(1) of the Abortion Act 1967 because she was not "participating" in treatment for termination of pregnancy in the meaning of the Act.

Mr Justice Nolan in the Queen's Bench Division accordingly dismissed an application by Mrs Barbara Janaway for judicial review to quash the decision of the Salford Health Authority on February 6, 1985, ratifying the decision of an internal appeal tribunal on January 17, 1985 that she had been properly dismissed from her employment with the health authority for misconduct.

This Lordship also refused Mrs Janaway's application for a declaration, *inter alia*, that in the circumstances the typing of correspondence concerned with the termination of pregnancies constituted participation in treatment authorized by the 1967 Act; and that by reason of her conscientious objection to typing such correspondence, she was under no duty, by contract or otherwise, to carry out the work.

Section 4(1) of the 1967 Act provides: "... no person shall be under any duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorized by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection."

Mr Gerard Wright, QC and Mr Patrick Fiddler for the applicant; Mr John Rowe, QC and Mr Geoffrey Tattersall for the health authority.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN said that on June 25, 1984, the applicant, became employed by the health authority as a medical receptionist at Salford Health Centre, Manchester. Her duties included typing correspondence for the doctors at the centre.

On September 11, 1984, she became aware for the first time that those duties included the typing of letters of referral of patients for treatment for the termination of pregnancies.

The applicant, who was a practising Roman Catholic with a strong moral objection to participating in any step necessary to abortion, refused to type such letters.

The health authority considered that section 4(1) applied only to persons with direct clinical responsibility for the treatment, that it did not apply to the case of the applicant and that her refusal was therefore unjustified. The applicant was accordingly dismissed for misconduct.

The solution to the present case was to be found in the proper construction of the words "participate" in section 4(1). The word "participate" there referred to that described in section 4(3) and (4), namely, treatment by a registered medical practitioner for the termination of pregnancy in a hospital.

The word "participate" was not to be construed according to its wide meaning in criminal law, but had to be approached with a narrower, more technical, and considered according to its ordinary meaning of "taking part in".

As a matter of plain English it was impossible to regard the applicant as taking part in the subsequent treatment of the patient in hospital.

That was not to say that his Lordship accepted the proposition of the health authority in November 11, 1984 that the protection of section 4(1) was only afforded to those having direct clinical responsibility for the patient, or that the protection only extended to doctors, nurses and para-medical staff.

The protection extended to all those taking part in the team effort: see *Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom v Department of Health and Social Security* (1981) AC 800, 828.

Solicitors: Clifford Poole & Co, Salford; Mr E. G. Jones, Manchester.

Exclusive possession a matter of fact

Brooker Settled Estates Ltd v Ayers
Before Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment February 12]

Where it was found as a fact that the occupier of property was not a lodger in that the landlord did not provide attendance or services, it did not necessarily follow that there was exclusive possession giving rise to a tenancy. Exclusive possession was a question of fact in each case and had to be decided by reviewing the evidence.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff landlord, *Brooker Settled Estates Ltd*, from a decision of Judge Bristow who sitting at Brentford County Court on June 6, 1986, gave judgment for the defendant, *Bridget Louise Ayers*.

Mr Robert Thorpe for the plaintiff; the defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR said that the plaintiff was landlord of a furnished flat at 18, Agnes Road, Acton, London. The flat had its own entrance and consisted of one double bedroom, two single bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom.

The defendant occupied the double bedroom. The plaintiff claimed that the defendant was a licensee by a written agreement and had broken a term of

that license. Therefore the plaintiff claimed possession.

The defendant said she was in occupation under an oral agreement and was a tenant protected by the Rent Acts. She claimed a declaration to that effect.

The judge found in favour of the defendant and made the declaration sought. The defendant had instructed her solicitors not to oppose the present appeal, the reason being that she wanted to leave the flat and get other accommodation and thought she might be helped in that search if she was not a protected tenant.

It did not follow that for that reason the court could allow the appeal, and the plaintiff had to establish proper grounds for interfering with the judge's decision.

There was no contested argument but his Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge's decision was wrong.

The plaintiff ran the flat and was entitled to provide accommodation for single women working in London. There was a standard form of agreement which the occupants of the flat entered into.

It was a standard term requiring each occupant to behave reasonably towards other occupants and there was also a term that no child should be in the premises.

In 1982 the flat was advertised as "flat to share with two other girls".

The defendant applied and met Mr Brooker who showed her the room and explained the terms. The defendant agreed to move in and the terms of the agreement were set out in a letter from the plaintiff stating, *inter alia*, that the defendant was permitted to occupy the master bedroom as "licensee" and to share the other facilities with the existing occupants and with those who from time to time we may introduce."

The following year the defendant signed a license agreement. Before the judge the case was decided by an examination of the facts against the judgment of the House of Lords in *Street v Mountford* (1985) AC 809.

The plaintiff's case was that the defendant was not given exclusive possession because (1) the landlord had reserved the right to put another person into the double bedroom and (2) all the occupants of the flats had the right of access to all parts of the flat. Therefore it was argued that the defendant was not a tenant because she had not got exclusive possession.

The judge relied on the speech of Lord Templeman in *Street v Mountford* at pp 817-818 where he said: "At the occupier of residential accommodation at a rent for a term is either a lodger or a tenant. The occupier is a lodger if the landlord provides attendance or services ... if, on the

other hand residential accommodation is granted for a term at a rent with exclusive possession, the landlord providing neither attendance nor services, the grant is a tenancy."

The judge held that the defendant was not provided with attendance or services and therefore she must have had exclusive possession of the room. Therefore she was not a lodger and was a tenant.

The judge had fallen into error. There was a sharp distinction between the present case and *Street's* case. In *Street's* case it was conceded that the occupier was not a lodger. It was said that there could not be a tenancy unless the occupier enjoyed exclusive possession. Lord Templeman recognized that each case had to be looked at on its own facts.

The judge having asked himself the right question as to whether there was exclusive possession erred in saying that the defendant was not a lodger since she must have exclusive possession.

From the facts of the case and the note of evidence before them his Lordship was unable to come to a conclusion as to exclusive possession. It was for the judge to decide from the evidence what conclusion he should come to and accordingly a new trial was ordered.

Lord Justice Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Fairchild Greig & Co, Acton.

Re-possessing hire purchase car

Chartered Trust plc v Fitcher
Before Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Nourse
[Judgment February 12]

Where a finance company repossessed under a hire purchase agreement goods protected under section 33(1) of the Hire Purchase Act 1963, it was not entitled to recover the balance due from the hirer under a hire purchase agreement dated October 10, 1982, in respect of a Ford Granada car.

Section 33(1) of the 1963 Act defined "protected goods" as goods in respect of which a hire purchase agreement, of which one third of the hire purchase price had been paid and when the hirer had not terminated the agreement.

Mr Andrew Green for Chartered Trust; Mr David Matthews for Mr Fitcher.

LORD JUSTICE KERR said that it was clear that if there was an agreement and informed consent by Mr Fitcher to the collection of the car by the Chartered Trust, then there could be no question of a breach of section 34(1).

The section was penal in its consequences and it was obviously impossible to conclude that if a finance company recovered possession with the unqualified and informed consent of the hirer it was "enforcing a right", that is, a right conferred by the hire contract.

The issue turned on the effect of the word "enforce". That implied action which was not consensual, but to some extent coercive.

The judge held that the recovery of the car was not consensual because Mr Fitcher's consent to it was not "informed consent". On the facts, the circumstances in which possession of the car was recovered by Chartered Trust showed that its recovery was not on a merely consensual basis so far as Mr Fitcher was concerned.

The recovery which was made was sufficiently coercive to amount to an enforcement of a right otherwise than by action and that contravened section 34(1).

It was never Mr Fitcher's wish that Chartered Trust should simply take the car back. He did not intend to exercise the option to terminate the agreement. What he really wanted was to keep the car on the basis of some re-arrangement of his financial obligations.

The court had power to make an order to that effect under section 35 although Mr Fitcher did not know that.

Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Solicitors: Silverman Sherlick & Co for Phillips & Buck, Cardiff; L. Bingham & Co for Serjeant & Son, Huntingdon.

Arbitration contract terms final

Regina v Liverpool Cotton Association, Ex parte Cotton Corporation of India

Where the terms of a contract incorporated the rules of procedure of an arbitral body, and those rules did not allow for the extensions of time for appealing against a technical arbitration award made by arbitrators appointed under those rules, the High Court was not entitled to imply or read into the rules a power to grant an extension of time.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 5 when he dismissed an application for a declaration that the directors of the Liverpool Cotton Association had an inherent power to extend time for making an appeal where an aggrieved party could show that it was reasonable so to do. His Lordship, pursuant to Order 53, rule 9(5) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, had allowed an application for the matter to proceed as if it was an action begun by writ.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the present case was not distinguishable from *Amalgamated Metal Corporation Ltd v Khon Seng Co* (1977) 2 Lloyd's Rep 310 where the House of Lords refused to allow waiver or dispensation of the rules of the London Metal Exchange which were incorporated into the parties' contract (see per Lord Fraser of Tullibine at p 317).

Although the outcome was hard on the applicants, much of the procedure of arbitration, such as speed, certainty and finality, might be lost if the directors had the power to extend the time of making appeals.

Corrections

In *In re Warrington Inc's Application* (The Times February 5) the second sentence of the second paragraph of the summary of Lord Justice Fox's judgment should have been: "Lohan had hired an excavator to Hurdiss ...".

In *Thompson v T. Lohan (Plaintiff Hire Ltd)* (The Times February 12) the fourth paragraph of the summary of Lord Justice Fox's judgment should have read: "Lohan had hired an excavator to Hurdiss ...".

Company is entitled to know for whom bank holds its shares

In re Geers Gross plc
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment February 10]

A holder of shares in a public company who the company had asked to supply information regarding the beneficial ownership of those shares and against whom an order had been made imposing restrictions on the shares under section 216 of the Companies Act 1985 could not obtain the lifting of those restrictions merely by the expedient of undertaking to sell them on the open market.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division dismissing a motion by SM Nominees Ltd and Guyerzeller Bank AG, Zurich, for an order that 430,000 shares in the company should no longer be subject to restrictions on transfer.

Mr Robin Potts, QC and Mr Mark Haggard for the applicants; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Miss Catherine Newman for the company.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the company had issued share capital of about 15 million shares. In September 1985 SM purchased 450,000 shares representing about 3 per cent and held them to the order of the Zurich bank.

On June 11, 1986 the company served a notice under section 212 of the 1985 Act on SM requiring them to disclose who was the beneficial owner.

On June 23 they replied that they held them to the order of the bank.

On November 17 the company served a similar notice on the bank. The bank replied that they could not disclose that information because of Swiss banking confidentiality law.

On November 28 the company obtained *ex parte* under section 216(1) of the 1985 Act an order imposing the restriction in Part 15 of the Act relating to share transfers, share issues, voting and payments of money in respect of the shares. The applicants now sought to have those restrictions lifted.

Section 456(3) of the 1985 Act provided that the restrictions might be released in two circumstances: (1) if the court was satisfied that the relevant facts about the shares had been disclosed to the company or (2) if the shares were to be sold and the court approved the sale.

SM argued that the legislation contemplated that a shareholder might either disclose information or apply to the court to permit sale on the open market. That argument identified the mischief to which the legislation was directed as merely being the building up of holdings in respect of which the beneficial ownership was concealed.

Accordingly, they submitted, it was possible to escape the restriction either by disclosure

or by putting the shares back into commerce; for if the shares were put back into commerce the order had served its purpose.

His Lordship held that that was far too narrow an approach. Section 212 gave a public company a right to know who was the beneficial owner of its shares not just at the date of the request for information but also in respect of a period three years previously.

A company might have a legitimate concern to know what dealings had taken place during such preceding period. To permit the holder to get rid of his shares without giving that information would frustrate the purpose of the legislation which was to enable the company to obtain that information.

In the circumstances the restrictions should continue in force in respect of the entire holding of 450,000 shares including two lots of 20,000 shares which the bank had contracted to sell in November prior to its receipt of the notice requesting information.

The fact that innocent purchasers might thereby be prevented from obtaining title to the shares was not sufficient to weigh the balance against maintaining the restrictions and securing the right of the company to the requested information.

Solicitors: Mr R. Adam H. Webb; Franks Charlesly & Co.

Insurance exemption for policeman on duty

Jones v Chief Constable of Bedfordshire

A police officer on duty using his own motor vehicle for police purposes and not covered by his own third-party insurance was covered by the exemption from the requirement of third-party insurance as provided in section 144(2)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, on its plain and ordinary meaning.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice Sedley) so held on February 10 when allowing the defendant's appeal from his conviction by Luton Justices on August 5, 1986, of driving without insurance contrary to section 143 of the 1972 Act.

The judge found the defendant, a police constable acting under orders at the relevant time, £100 and endorsed his licence with four penalty points.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the justices had not suggested what section 144(2)(b) meant but had concluded it could not sensibly mean that police officers were not obliged to have insurance to use their own vehicles while on duty. It was quite clear that if the vehicle was being driven for police purposes, section 144(2)(b) applied.

Although the justices might have been concerned that if an accident resulted while a police officer was driving on duty and serious injuries resulted for which there would be no insurance policy to compensate, in his Lordship's view, if the officer was driving for police purposes he was driving on the instructions of superior officers and the police authority would be vicariously liable in respect of any allegations of negligent driving.

Marconi, Marie Curie, Gustav Dalén, Henry Ford. Who's the odd one out?

Grazie, Signor Marconi for your radio.
Merci, Madame Curie for radium.
Thanks, Henry Ford for your motors. Tack, Dr. Gustav Dalén for the Aga cooker.
No, Dr. Dalén is not the odd one out. Yes, he is the only Swede.

He was also, like Guglielmo Marconi and Marie Curie, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist. You've probably never heard of him, so who was Gustav Dalén? He is the man to whom thousands of seamen owe their lives; because he invented a thing called Dalén's Sun Valve that turns a lightship's lights on by night and puts them out by day, automatically. That's why they gave him the Nobel Prize.

He was the scientist so dedicated to his work that he was blinded in an explosion during one of his experiments, yet he still went on later to complete the experiment.

He was also the man who invented the only cooker in the world that roasts, bakes, boils, steams, simmers, fries, braises, grills, casseroles and toasts, yes toasts (bet you thought an Aga couldn't, didn't you?) perfectly.

More than that, though, what Dr. Dalén did in 1922 was to reinvent the cooker.

He simply couldn't find a cooker in existence to satisfy his exacting scientific standards.

So combining his knowledge of combustion, metallurgy and nutrition with kitchen common sense, he invented the Aga.

Despite the advent of microwaves and fan ovens, there is still nothing in the world that cooks food better than an Aga.

Remembering what a pain it is waiting for the oven to heat up, Gustav Dalén made sure you never have to do that with his Aga. It's ready anytime.

Then, pondering the inscrutable riddle of the boiling-over pan, he came up with a simmering plate big enough to hold three saucepans that won't let them boil over. Ever.

The boiling plate, though, boils a pint of water faster than an electric kettle. It holds three saucepans, too.

More interesting, perhaps, is the fact that our Dr. Dalén just might have been psychic.

Well, can you think of any other cooker that runs throughout the day on cheap rate overnight electricity? Believe us, there isn't one.

To Gustav Dalén, making a cooker run on the principle of stored heat was just the most efficient way to make it. It still is.

But how was he to know the Central Electricity Generating Board would come up with 'night storage' if he wasn't psychic?

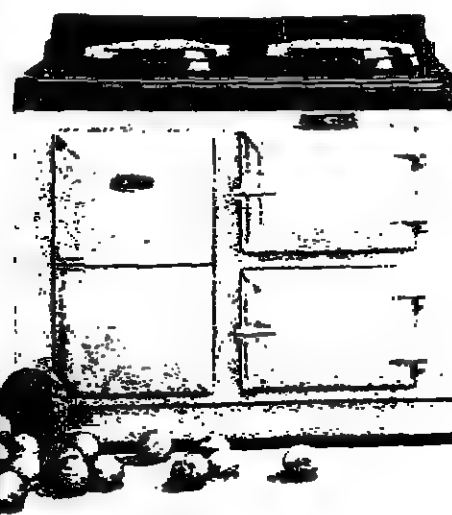
Anyway, since you can now buy an electric Aga (as well as one that runs on natural gas, LPG, oil or solid fuel), it's the only cooker in the world that can run on nothing but off-peak electricity.

Impressed? We thought you might be. If you'd like to see a live Aga, any of our distributors can show you one. Or return the coupon to Aga, Freeport, Ketley, Telford, Shropshire TF1 3BR and we'll tell you all about them.

Oh yes, who is the odd one out? It's Henry Ford. You know him. He's odd because he was no scientist. He was just clever enough to sell cars by the million, saying: "Any colour you like so long as it's black."

Well, you can buy an Aga in green, blue, red, brown, cream, white or even gloriously black vitreous enamel.

Psychic or not, the only really odd thing about Gustav Dalén is that his name wasn't Gustav Aga.



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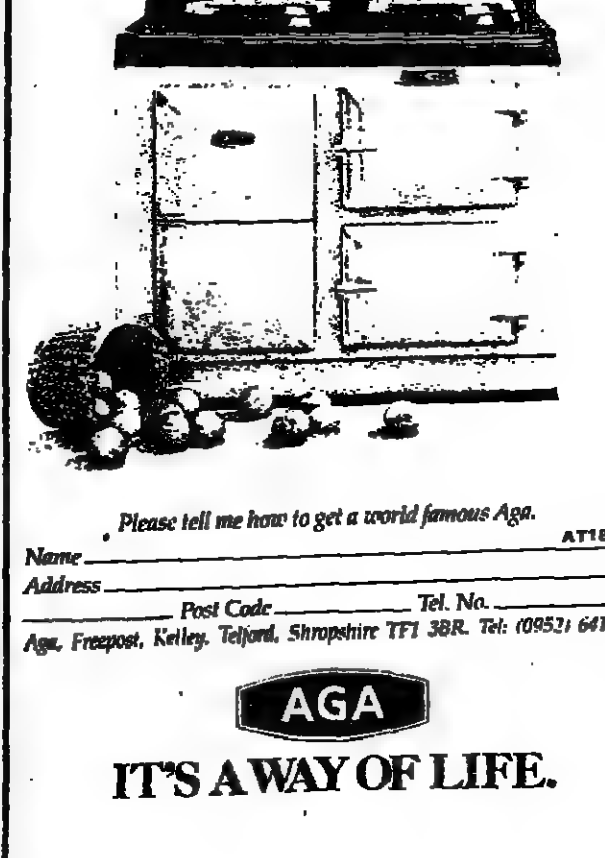
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SPECTRUM

The great antiquities tax scandal

It was Dr Jiri Frel's ambition at the Getty Museum to amass the best collection of antiquities in the world — but he did it at the taxpayer's expense, to the tune of millions of dollars. Geraldine Norman and Thomas Hoving explain how he went about it

I took the Getty Museum in California two days this week to compose a reply to our suggestion that Dr Jiri Frel, the museum's former curator of antiquities, had built his collection there by encouraging tax avoidance running into millions of dollars. But it had taken the museum almost six months to take action after Frel's activities were first suspected. And it had been another two years before he finally resigned.

It was on Wednesday that the museum told us that Frel, 65, a charming, anarchic, scholarly Czech who defected to the West while on a year's fellowship at Princeton in 1971, had been relieved of "all curatorial duties" as a result of "serious violations of the museum's policies and rules regarding donations to the antiquities collection".

The admission came after the museum had pondered for 48 hours our suggestion that Dr Frel had attracted tax deductible donations valued at more than \$14 million by offering to arrange massive over-valuation for tax purposes on behalf of 50 or more donors over a 10-year period.

A collaboration between *The Times* and Thomas Hoving, editor-in-chief of the New York *Connoisseur* magazine, stretching over several months, has revealed that in August 1983, John Walsh, then the Getty's director-designate, was told of Frel's activities. The museum says it conducted a six-month inquiry at the end of which he left the country on full pay.

The museum said that the donation practices were uncovered by the associate curator of antiquities, Arthur Houghton III, in August 1983. They requested him to obtain further information and when it was provided in December 1983 it was found "sufficient to warrant an extensive investigation which involved outside counsel". There was no evidence of personal financial gain on Frel's part, they said. He had resigned in December 1986.

Frel became curator of antiquities at the Getty in 1973. His ambition was to build a spectacular collection fast. Not content with purchases which the board had to vote upon, he began to encourage donations which went through on the nod. And he did it on an unheard-of scale.

Between his arrival at the museum in 1973 and May 1984 when he left for Paris over 100 donors contributed 6,453 items valued, according to the museum tax return, at \$14,441,228. In contrast, over the same period the museum received donations of paintings worth \$666,000, of photographs worth \$434,000 and

decorative arts worth \$86,520. And over the period from 1967 to 1977 the Metropolitan Museum, with 22 curatorial departments and 80 curators, generated gifts of objects worth just under \$6m.

Frel charmed his donors in a number of different ways, including offering tax avoidance opportunities. An American taxpayer can deduct the value of charitable donations from his gross income before his tax liability is calculated. The larger the appraised value of a donation, the less tax he pays.

According to one donor, however, Frel was prepared to provide appraisals four and a half times higher than the purchase price. At that level a donor in the 60 per cent tax bracket makes a clear profit on the deal equivalent to slightly more than he paid for the object in the first place.

Frel often explained how in Paul Getty's lifetime he was not allowed to buy vases and other ceramics since the old man was not interested in them. After Getty's death, the museum trustees were interested mainly in major acquisitions, while Frel's ambition was to form a large study collection of minor items. The only way of increasing the collection was by encouraging donations.

Illicit excavations in Italy, Turkey and elsewhere in Southern Europe mean that vase fragments and damaged sculptures are available in large quantities. The smugglers generally channel this material through Geneva, Zurich and Lugano; Switzerland acts as a world entrepot centre for antiquities.

Bruce McNall, proprietor of the Summa Galleries in Beverly Hills, who worked closely with Frel in his early days at the museum, states that Frel had crates of archaeological material shipped from Switzerland to the Summa Galleries which was then made available to donors. After a while McNall became impatient with the material cluttering his gallery and requested Frel to have it shipped elsewhere. He believes that material was subsequently shipped direct to the museum.

McNall says he helped Frel in the hope of doing business with the dollar-rich museum. Instead, Frel took advantage of McNall's ability to introduce him to wealthy locals he could woo as donors. "He was hungry for introductions," says McNall.

One of the chief appraisers was Jerome Eisenberg, whose Royal Athena Gallery is the second major antiquities supplier of Los Angeles. Eisenberg is now worried



Dr Jiri Frel: offered donors massive tax avoidance opportunities

that his friendly assistance may have been abused. "I made many valuations for him," he admits. "Sometimes when he was in a hurry I would give him appraisals over the telephone and allow him to sign my name to them, though I only did this when I had seen the material or had photographs."

Some of the donors may never even have seen the vases, statues and bronzes that they were kind enough to donate. The biggest donor of all was Gordon McLendon, a Texas millionaire with a chain of newspapers and radio stations. Between 1976 and 1978 his gifts to the museum were worth \$2,144,530, according to the museum's records.

His son Bart was surprised at the idea of his late father as a connoisseur. "He knew nothing about art," he exclaimed. "He wouldn't even have known how to spell it — and it's not a very long word."

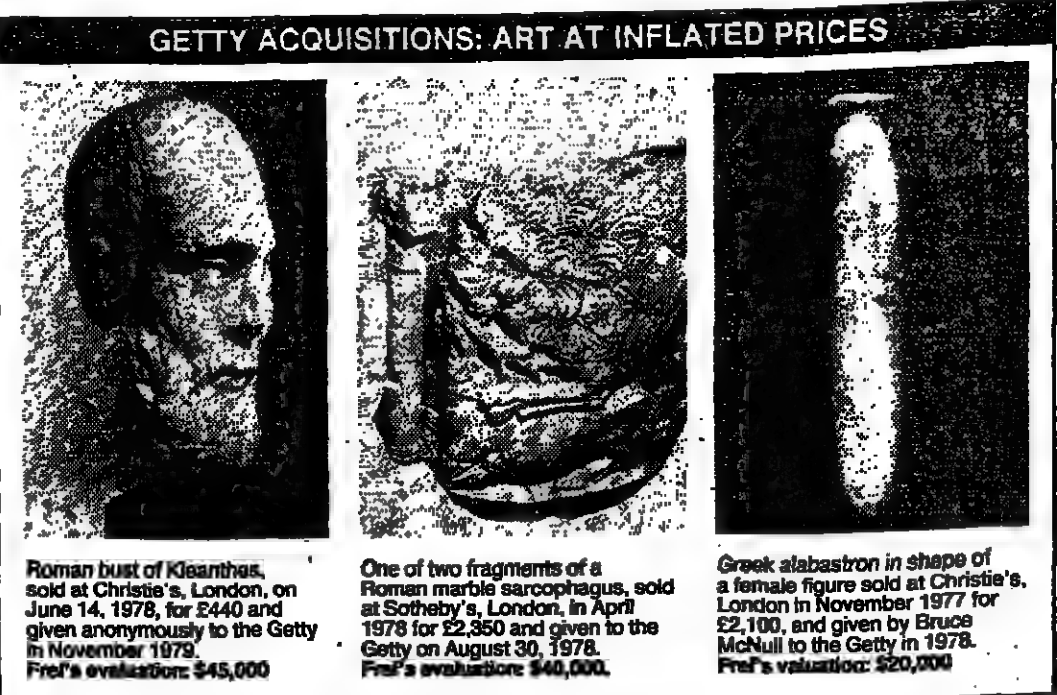
Other big donors included Seymour Weintraub, a Californian film and television producer, who gave \$978,150; Stefan Horniak,

another Californian (\$869,800); and Vasek Polak, a car dealer (\$746,500).

The Internal Revenue Service, when they received tax returns from individual donors, sometimes challenged Frel's valuations, drastically reducing them. Dietrich von Bothmer, curator of Greek and Roman art at the Metropolitan Museum, was one of the authorities they consulted. He pointed out that the Greek vase by the Kleophrades painter donated by McLendon at \$100,000 had been for sale in Switzerland at \$35,000 a matter of weeks before.

Several of the donors were similarly caught out by IRS spot checks. Mr Alan Salke, a Virginia shoe manufacturer, had a \$300,000 valuation on a red figure cup by Phintias which was reduced by the IRS to \$90,000. "It cost me a bloody fortune," he said. Salke's total donations to the Getty were worth \$352,000.

Frel is reputed to have made little secret of what he was doing, boasting of his achievements



Roman bust of Kleonithas, sold at Christie's, London, on June 14, 1978, for £440 and given anonymously to the Getty in November 1979. Frel's evaluation: \$45,000

One of two fragments of a Roman marble sarcophagus, sold at Sotheby's, London, in April 1978 for £2,350 and given to the Getty on August 30, 1978. Frel's evaluation: \$40,000

Greek alabastron in shape of a female figure sold at Christie's, London in November 1977 for £2,100, and given by Bruce McNall to the Getty in 1978. Frel's valuation: \$20,000

when he was in sunny mood. Until 1976 the museum had a tiny staff; it was not until 1981 that new staff began to be recruited to reflect its new status as the richest museum in the world. They began to notice the irregularities in Frel's activities, but for a long time the museum was without a director and they had no one to report to.

In August 1983, John Walsh, the expert on seventeenth century Dutch painting from Boston who finally got the job, was told of Frel's activities. The museum did not take action for another six months though they claim to have undertaken extensive inquiries.

Harold Williams, President of the Getty Trust, reported to the board on Frel in April 1984. Frel left for Paris a few days later and the museum discontinued the acceptance of donated antiquities. They appear to have taken legal opinion and to have been assured that these two moves placed the museum within the law.

It seems inevitable that their reading of the legal issues will be challenged in the weeks ahead. The Internal Revenue Service in Washington confirms that it was not informed of the tax irregularities uncovered at the museum. Moreover, Frel was not sacked. Over the following year the museum described him as "on sabbatical". On July 1, 1985 he was appointed research curator and remained on the museum payroll, though resident in Paris.

The affair would probably never have come to light if the American tax laws had not required all private foundations to file a public information memorandum once a year detailing donations worth more than \$5,000. The extraordinary lists of antiquities donated to the Getty were gathering dust in the files of the Foundation Center in New York, where we found them.

The lists needed careful interpretation. They include donations from genuine collectors who were happy to take advantage of the appraisal system run by Frel, and collectors who used their own appraisers and donated at fair

market prices. But the majority of donations appear to have been made solely for tax purposes.

Frel was not to be found in his handsome eighteenth century apartment building on the outskirts of Paris last week. He had removed his name from the apartment list on the ground floor in the course of the previous week. Parked in the drive was his brand new Saab Turbo Commander with

Swiss number plates — and an Italian autostrada sticker on the windscreen. Frel is clearly still busy on the antiquities trails of Europe.

(The Times Newspapers Ltd 1987)

Thomas Hoving is Editor-in-Chief of the New York *Connoisseur* magazine and the former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

A millionaire takes an interest

The Getty Museum has received a large number of phone calls from anxious donors over the last few weeks as we pursued our inquiries. The museum is the dominant presence in California's art scene and its friends appear to have been anxiously pondering the implications of a major art scandal.

But the most bizarre turn of events came two months ago when Thomas Hoving received a telephone call from Mr Norton Simon, the millionaire industrialist and art collector, in the course of which Mr Simon suggested that he might like to purchase *Connoisseur* magazine, owned since 1926 by the Hearst Corporation, and move it to California. In a second phone call Mr Simon suggested that Hoving, the magazine's editor-in-chief, come to the west coast for a "mutually constructive talk with a common end in mind for a joint enterprise that would be highly productive for both our objectives".

In a final contact on Monday of this week Mr Simon said "I'm trying to work a deal with you" and ranged over possibilities for linking the interests of Hoving, the Getty Museum and himself. "I'll go to Harold Williams (President of the Getty Trust) and say so, he'll support it." He pointed out that the Getty Museum had "got a few million dollars" but might never be able to get an Old Master collection together "except through us". Mr Simon's personal



Norton Simon: surprise bid collection, housed in a private museum in Pasadena, California, is the finest found in America since the war. Discussions about its possible acquisition by the Getty have been mooted for some time and there have been two important joint purchases.

In Monday's telephone conversation Simon spoke of John Walsh, the present director of the Getty, as being "opposition" to Hoving and of Hoving becoming "the head guy".

He stressed that Harold Williams, a former chief executive of the Simon Corporation, could not run the whole Getty without delegation.

Will the third force be with you..?

Smoke billowed down the empty street. Petrol bombs burnt fiercely, lighting the line of police riot shields in the distance with an orange glow. A shadowy figure lent from a window. With a cry of "bastards" he opened fire at the huddled police.

As the boom of the gunshots died the street was suddenly filled with a new sound: a police armoured personnel carrier roared in loaded with highly-armed marksmen.

The scene is reminiscent of Belfast but it took place in London this week. On a damp evening beneath the flight path into Heathrow a new police riot cadre was being forged in the mock streets and shell buildings of Scotland

London's police are soon to get a crack cadre to handle riots. Stewart Tendler

them train

Yard's riot training ground. Two hundred members of London's territorial support groups, TSGs, were learning the business of policing in extremis.

Some have already seen duty outside the News International plant at Wapping during the January demonstration which turned into a full confrontation with police. Others are just begin-

ning to make their appearance on the London streets.

At first sight there is little to distinguish the 920 policemen from other officers. But the TSGs are the nearest Britain has yet come to a "third force" — a unit specifically set up to deal with civil disorder.

By the summer, 24 armoured Land Rovers will be delivered to the groups which include officers trained to use guns and fire both CS gas or plastic bullets. In future riots, police will no longer rely on men from D11, the Yard's top-level marksmen, to fire the anti-riot weapons. These will be on call throughout London for the TSGs to use if



Mean streets: A Territorial Support Group training session

authorized by senior commanders. A four-day TSG course at Hounslow has included intensive training in facing petrol bomb attacks, the formation of arrest squads, work with plastic bullets, the deployment of mounted police and the use of armoured vehicles. Training will continue for one day every few weeks to create the most highly trained anti-riot unit seen in Britain so far.

The TSGs are an answer to the conundrum facing police chiefs in the 1980s. Many of Britain's cities and towns are at risk from disorder but a dedicated riot squad on standby is thought to remain both publicly unacceptable and too expensive.

The solution in London, which has seen six riots in six years, is a compromise. The TSGs will provide a highly-mobile manpower reserve trained in a number of non-controversial roles. On top of that, they can deliver a sharp police response to rioters — as demanded by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, after the Tottenham disorder 18 months ago.

Each of the TSGs is attached to one of the capital's eight police areas. The groups — normally split into four units — include 96 constables, 12 sergeants, five inspectors, one chief inspector and a superintendent in overall command. There are 66 fe-

male officers in the TSG's total strength; the first time women have been included in a specialist public order unit.

The operation of any such unit in London will provoke criticism given the checkered history of the Special Patrol Group in the 1970s. In recognition of this, Scotland Yard says it has designed a rigorous selection process, training programme and command system for the TSGs.

According to Supt. Michael Messenger, commanding the TSG covering south-west London, the result is a body of "good practical, well-balanced, well-motivated" police officers, "who will serve in the TSGs for up to four years."

Their daily work will be to provide extra cover in specialised areas of crime such as muggings. Officers will work in plain clothes on surveillance of targets such as drug traffickers.

On duty they would look as much like ordinary police officers as possible — only the letters on their shoulder markings indicate their role — and there should not, said Mr. Messenger, be anything "storm trooperesque" about them.

Sir Kenneth has his anti-riot squad but he also a group to devote to the targets of everyday policing. The success of the compromise, like any other police initiative, will be decided on the city streets.

Love, it seems, runs smooth and deep in Baltimore where this week the good bunnies are offering citizens a variation on the Valentine card: tell her you love her and fill in a pothole. For just 10 dollars, the city will name a pothole after your loved one, fill it in, mark it with a red heart and send her a card to boot.

If it could only happen in America, then it is appropriate it is happening in Baltimore, where the urban regeneration programme and the antics of its former mayor and now governor of Maryland, Donald Schaefer, are enjoying worldwide approval. A steady stream of British politicians, civil servants, town hall officials, developers and other professionals have recently beaten a path to Baltimore in search of solutions to Britain's inner-city problems.

The attraction for these urban pilgrims is Baltimore's Inner Harbor, a once-derelect area which now attracts 20 million people a year to its waterfront. Covent Garden-style shopping, convention centre, new hotels, science museum and aquarium.

Tourism, however, is not the main aim of Harborplace. The idea, says Jackie Lampell, who works at City Hall, is to create jobs and increase the tax base. Each new hotel employs about 750 people for every 500 rooms and so far about 2,500 new rooms have been built in downtown Baltimore. The two shopping pavilions called Harborplace provided about 2,300 new jobs, many of them going to the previously unemployed. In all, downtown redevelopment has created about 30,000 jobs, a lot of interesting new buildings and the transformation of the city's reputation.

Like many British Victorian cities, Baltimore had witnessed a massive exodus of better-off people and jobs. The inner harbour closed, shops were closing and the remaining population was increasingly poor and black. Unlike Britain, where such cooperation is only just beginning to

A city sitting pretty

Baltimore's urban renewal programme is attracting international fans

emerge, the business community got together with the local mayor and city hall and jointly tackled the problems of decay.

Schaefer and the other city leaders have constantly sought to involve local people in the campaign. Employers were encouraged to take part in a tax-deductible programme, hiring older school children

(but only those with good school attendance records) for summer jobs.

There are annual "Baltimore is Best" competitions for the best parents, bartenders, typists, creative writers, neighbourhoods, poets (among senior citizens) and for the person or group which has done most for the city during the year.

"The Baltimore scene is pretty mind-blowing," said David Hall, director of the Town and Country Planning Association, who came back from a recent East Coast fact-finding mission impressed by the strong input from the business community. Steve Beileio, until recently with the English Tourist Board, was similarly impressed by the quality of design and management of something which attracts large numbers of visitors. "It didn't look tatty, tacky or whatever," he said, in some surprise.

Judy Hillman

(The Times Newspapers Ltd 1987)

SATURDAY

Well versed in love

The Times puts the poetry back in to Valentine's Day with diverse verses from well-known figures, including Barbara Cartland (left), Laurie Lee, Jill Bennett, Bob Hoskins and Billy Connolly.

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FRIDAY PAGE



Prepared for action: (from left) Linda Stoker, who runs the refresher course for married women, with Jacky Barratt, Ann Portway and Christine Moles, the tutor

Back to work - with a lesson

Outside the interview room at the Dearing Centre in Chestnut, 20 women are waiting nervously for their first job interview in 10 or 15 years. Each holds her carefully composed C.V., a copy of the job advertisement and an application form.

They had all taken heed of their tutor Christine Moles' advice to look presentable and arrive on time, except for Sally, who didn't turn up because it was too much of an ordeal, and Vi, who wished she'd worn a dress instead of the casual trousers and top.

The women I met that morning were practising interview skills in the final week of a new 28-day course - Wider Opportunities for Women - aimed at married women who have been running a home and family for years.

This unique course is sponsored by the Manpower Training Commission and organized by 32-year-old Linda Stoker, managing director of Dow Jones, costs nothing and covers every aspect of returning to work. It does not only aim to give women back their confidence, but also to instil in them the necessary aggression and motivation, to point them towards the job that will suit them now, which may not be the same career that they followed before marriage.

The course, which includes simple practical skills such as writing a C.V. and filling in application forms, also looks seriously at time management, life planning and even how to run your own business. It may sound like an endurance test, but those who complete it are ready to face the most exacting scrutiny.

Can women who have to put their careers on hold to run a home and family return to work with ease? Barbara Lamb reports on a course, called Wider Opportunities for Women, that aims to foster ambition

Mock interviews on video are an important rehearsal for the real thing and will reveal how well or badly the women cope. Did they perch timidly on the chair, their dress appropriate, and how confidently did they present themselves?

Hands clenched on lap to control her nerves, 38-year-old Ann Portway dreads being caught out by the interviewer. She badly wants the position of a school secretary, but hasn't done a full-time job for 12 years. Ann is smartly dressed, in a navy suit with a crisp red shirt. She looks the interviewer straight in the eye, remembering the positive handshake. Personnel officer Gareth Peck (on loan from a well-known local company) isn't going to try and throw her off guard, the last thing he wants to do is to shake the little confidence she has.

"I've bluffed the typing question," Ann admits after the interview. "I'll have to brush up on it before I apply for a real job." Gareth Peck was impressed: "If I'd been interviewing her for real she would have been in with a good chance."

Ann's husband, an engineering manager, has encouraged her and he persuaded her to do the course. Her children, aged nine and six, are less of a worry to her now, especially as this type of job should fit in with school hours. "When I was working

I had a lot more to offer in conversation and personality," Ann says. "And I feel at last I'm getting that back."

Vi Howard, who wanted to return to her old job of telephoneist, breezes in confidently, trying to make up for her ill-chosen clothes. She was anxious to be interviewed today as her first proper interview, with Rank Xerox, is scheduled for next week.

A bit too boldly, she begins, "Can I ask you what you're looking for?" and finishes with: "Would you be prepared to retrain me?" Gareth comments that she "could have asked me a lot more questions; I purposely didn't tell you anything about the conditions, facilities or pension scheme. I was waiting for you to bring them up. You've got to show that you're more interested in the company as a whole than in the salary."

Vi has now found a job as a telephoneist with Rank Xerox. The third day of the course helps them to decide which jobs to apply for, they fill in an interest inventory, a sort of psychological test on their interests and ambitions. From the results they are able to look at what jobs are available and whether they need further training.

That test proved to 37-year-old

Jacky Barratt that she should remain a practitioner in alternative medicine, for which she recently qualified, rather than return to her old job of laboratory technician. Her children are now aged nine and eight. "I trained as a rethelologist a year ago but I never had the confidence to sell myself; no one would give me a job," says Jacky. "The course also tells you what jobs to avoid - clerical work, which I was considering, would have been disastrous for me."

"Personal development is what the course has meant for me. It has been a lot deeper than I expected. As women, we get on with the day to day things, never questioning having to do the shopping or cooking the meals. I've been thinking more deeply about what I want from life. It's given me order again, it's put housework in its place. Suddenly you've completed, in a couple of hours, what used to take a whole day. I'm getting so many comments about how well I'm looking - I feel so much better inside." Jacky's confidence has now led her to start her own business, using her skills in acupuncture and reflexology.

Lack of confidence was never Carole Hemmings' problem. An articulate and lively 42-year-old, she joined the course to find direction having been steered in family life for 13 years. "I did the course primarily to find out what

work was available for someone like me - it's a long time since I was at school.

"It was a conscious decision to stay at home and be a mother to my children, they're very special to me," Carole had her doubts about the course at first. "The message I got was forget the children, forget your husband, if you want to work damn the rest. That really riled me that they were telling me what to do with my family."

"Examining my motivation to work, that was very good, it confirmed in my mind that I wasn't going to work primarily for money but because I had something to give." Carole has now gone to college for a course on computers and word processing.

"My initial reaction was sceptical," says Linda Stoker. "Why do women need to learn such obvious skills? But the pilot scheme we ran in High Wycombe was such an overwhelming success that the women themselves convinced me that there was an enormous need for this sort of help."

"We try and match up people's desires and motivations with reality, but sometimes they have to take some steps away from their desires to meet reality, and sometimes it's right where they are anyway. Many of these women have this great British reserve. At the interview they say I might be able to do the job when they ought to be saying I know I can do it well."

For details of further courses, contact Linda Stoker or Janet Rundle on 0279 225400.

Wickedness or just fun?

Cynthia Payne's recent acquittal prompts questions about morality and the law

I think it was when Mrs Cynthia Payne began to cry in the witness box at her trial last week that I first thought of *Boule de Suif*, the plump prostitute about whom Guy de Maupassant wrote so sympathetically. *Boule de Suif* cried, of course, because after reluctantly bedding a Prussian officer in order to save her fellow travellers, she was ignored and despised by them for her easy virtue. This is of a more heroic cast than Mrs Payne, who seemed to be crying over "my kinky box" that contained the whips and canes so dear to her deceased love, Squadron Leader Robert Smith. "I can stand all the other questions," sobbed Mrs Payne, "but not about him."

Women, I think, have mixed emotions about it all. Prostitutes evoke ambivalent feelings in us. At times one sees some small merit in the prostitute who sold any part of her anatomy to confirm my feeling that the reason society has always had laws against prostitution is an economic one: we don't like dumping. Devaluing the merchandise is bad. Since time immemorial the sexual act has provided many women (and some men) with a lifetime of support. But when there are younger, prettier women around, even smarter ones, who offer the great sexual mystery for a straight price, the service is devalued. This, I think, rather than the modern cries of "exploitation" is behind the antagonism towards prostitution.

Still, I confess to a strong bias against prostitutes myself. Of course, I have a similar bias against a lot of people who make their living out of areas I regard as similarly contemptible, such as people on government regulatory agencies and censorship boards. But my dislike for prostitution is based on a feeling that human beings are a pair-bonding species with a considerable capacity and desire for love. Participating in the sexual act without personal affection - or at least mutual lust - seems to me unnatural.

All the same, one's personal contempt for prostitution scarcely seems an argument for legislating in these areas of morality. In

fact, I never have been at ease with any of our morality laws. Every day of the year police are out raiding gaming houses, swooping on pornography caches, and arresting those unfortunate men whose desperation drives them to proposition undercover policewomen. One knows that this behaviour is hideously vulgar and cheapens the quality of our civilization, but surely our best approach is to say that the law should not interfere with such acts between consenting adults unless they can be shown to be disruptive to the community at large or uninvolved persons.

As long as our laws and society give police the power and budget to enforce these marginal areas of morality - whoring, gambling and so on, the police will continue to sweep in en masse. And they will be forced into behaviour that can often make them look ridiculous. There were 30 police in on the raid at Mrs Payne's. The investigation took 14 months. Two undercover policemen visited her house several times dressed up as "a businessman" and "a transsexual". The mind boggles.

I suppose what irritates me the most, in the end, is the crude glamour that all this



Cynthia Payne: an image with an ambivalent effect

gives people like Mrs Payne. Journalism covers these things with such a broad brush and often a rather sentimental one. Well, I know that people who give sex parties are probably not fiends, but neither are they social workers. Mrs Payne may have a perfectly decent sense of humour and, as one newspaper claimed yesterday, attends parties at David Frost's. But then middle-class courtesans or "personalities" were always the toast of society when lower-class street walkers were considered the gutter.

It's just a personal opinion, but I think Mrs Payne and her ilk are a part of this society that is better left under the stone.

Barbara Amiel

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Media meteor

Kate Schlesinger is becoming an actress to watch - in the theatre, on films and on television

Katharine Schlesinger left drama school in 1984, wrote 300 letters to every repertory theatre and casting director in the country, got just one audition and landed the job - playing fairies and maids in the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

It was good training but hardly the stuff that careers are made of, yet since then her rise as an actress has been, as they say, meteoric: first Juliet at the Crucible, Sheffield, then four demanding roles with the Royal Theatre, Northampton, and recently Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank* for BBC Television.

This Sunday, Schlesinger, now 23, appears in her first television film, playing Catherine Morland in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, on BBC 2. She regards both Catherine and Anne Frank as "innocent women, but very different characters. Anne was mischievous, loud, bouncy, intelligent, honest and perceptive, whereas Catherine, although charming and not a weak character, was ignorant and glib."

"Anne is the most special part I have played. It is the nearest I have got to feeling that I was another person. Going to work was like going to see a friend," says Schlesinger. "When filming was over it suddenly hit me that Anne was dead - it was like losing someone very close." She regained her perspective some weeks later, on seeing *Shoah*, the epic film about the Holocaust. Kath-



Kate Schlesinger, and (left) in her role as Anne Frank

arine, although half-Jewish, was brought up as a non-practising Christian.

Acting is very much in the blood: she is the great-niece of Dame Peggy Ashcroft and a niece of film director John Schlesinger. To those who think her family has helped her she says: "They have

that you are easy, open and fun to work with." She has captured some unlikely roles. After winning an audition for Pandora in the West End production of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*, her friends said that small, dark-haired, Katharine was hardly their image of the sexy, blonde, "graceful" Pandora. However, she got the part. "I did not realize how hard it was to keep a performance fresh," she says. "After seven months it was frightening. I was praying, not to forget my lines."

Katharine recently successfully auditioned for the part of Irena in *Elijah*, a production of Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* (which opens at Greenwich on March 18).

Schlesinger enjoys the unpredictability and excitement of being an actress and she knows she has been lucky to work in three media - theatre, film and television. "The theatre is where you learn and develop your craft, but filming is wonderful because you can be more truthful," she says.

Peta Levi

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Love laws

Why wait until after the wedding for the divorce? With an admirable sense of economy, lawyers in the United States these days are drawing up pre-nuptial contracts which set out the arrangements for parting even before the exchange of rings.

Couples are being advised to make sure that becoming affianced does not mean becoming affianced. "It may be unromantic but people think it's extremely practical," according to Carolyn McCaffrey, a New York lawyer who has handled scores of the bargaining sessions. "People like to know where they stand from the outset," she told me.

Indeed they do, and in some considerable detail. One 45-year-old college professor had a clause written into his agreement that in the event of a marriage break-up he would keep his electric train set.

Some of the agreements run to 50 pages and include legally-binding pronouncements on where the couple will go on holiday, who will pay the food bills or get the biggest wardrobe.

The law here provides for equitable distribution of a couple's assets on divorce. It



Peta Levi

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Be my Valentine - but only if we sign a contract about who gets what on parting

gives the judge the right to award alimony in either direction. The rights were extended considerably in 1980. Since then agreements like these have become more and more common," says Mrs McCaffrey.

But doesn't it all pour cold water on the first fervour of love? "Well, yes, it does a bit. In one case I was representing a man who had been married before. He had acquired substantial assets and wanted the woman to waive her rights entirely. She was represented by a lawyer who was trying to negotiate some limited rights for her. In the end my client decided the whole thing wasn't worth the effort and he called the wedding off."

Often, says Mrs McCaffrey, people hold back from driving a hard bargain to prove that they are not marrying for the money. They may live to regret it.

Newspapers in the United States have, for some years, been reporting on the case of Michele and Richard Lamb, who signed an agreement 12 years before their divorce in 1981. In it, Mrs Lamb listed her assets as \$1,600 and signed away her right to alimony and any claim on the \$272,000 Mr Lamb listed.

"I always resented my husband for making me sign it," said Mrs Lamb. "I felt like he didn't trust me." She subsequently sued him for not making a full disclosure of his assets in the agreement but the courts ruled against her.

Paul Valley

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THE TIMES DIARY

Softly, softly

After this month's rewrite by the Labour leadership of plans for "democratic supervision" of the police, the Commons launch this week of a new paper on police accountability drawn up by the all-Labour London Strategic Policy Unit has been postponed. Invitations were withdrawn just two days after being issued. The LSPU suggests setting up an elected police authority in London with the power to appoint and dismiss police commissioners and propose that councillors outside London should have powers over "general operational policies". The launch was due to be attended by Marjorie Munn, a Hackney councillor quoted last week as refusing regular police meetings because "I am not in the business of compromise". Though the official reason for the postponement was that speakers became unavailable, a more likely reason, I understand, is Labour Party HQ's anxiety to avoid a row with the Greenpeace by-election. The first available date for the launch is now March 2 - well the other side of polling day.

Polls apart

Complaining about Monday's *Newsnight* poll that showed Greenwich voters deserting Labour for the Alliance candidate, Joe Ashton, the Bassetlaw MP, said it had been conducted by inexperienced students. His colleague, frontbencher Bryan Gould, had no such qualms yesterday about a subsequent poll conducted by students which, he said, showed a "solid and satisfactory" Labour lead. It is just as well. When not knocking on the doors of Greenwich, the political science students from Drew University, New York, are taught British Constitution by Labour spokesman Kevin McNamara.

Irish punt

Dublin's *Sunday Independent* is offering £250,000 to any reader who predicts the exact result of Tuesday's general election. The odds against such a feat, executives must have calculated, are astronomical. But they have fallen dramatically with the announcement that a gambling syndicate intends spending £150,000 on 30,000 copies of the newspaper and using a computer to calculate the most likely permutations of results. The syndicate has been legally advised that it is entitled to submit its entries as a computer printout rather than tediously filling out 30,000 individual coupons as the rules lay down. Editor Aengus Fanning tells me he has no intention of changing the rules and believes the syndicate is bluffing. He admits one thing about the plan, however: "It's about the most exciting thing to happen in the election so far."

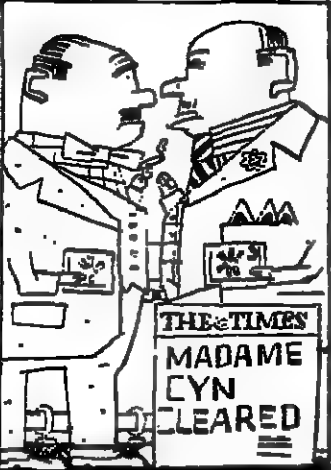
Bongo land

Carl Davis, Cymru's newly-elected prospective parliamentary candidate for Clywd North West, has an unusual election aide: his dog, Bongo. Davis swears his faithful hound is trained to bark "Gwynfor Evans", name of the president of Plaid Cymru.

Instant whip

Norman Tebbit must be regretting sniggering about the confusion that led David Steel and David Owen to vote in opposite ways the other week. On Wednesday night no fewer than 40 debate-weary Tory MPs dutifully trotted out into the wrong lobby. Whips John Cope and Tim Sainsbury watched in horror as their men accidentally assented to vote against the party-line on Scottish housing policy. Our heroes leapt into the fray to shoo them the right way - just in time.

BARRY FANTONI



"Cheer up, old man, there must be dozens of genuine places"

Cowpokes

Is someone having *The Times Higher Education Supplement* on, or is it right to take seriously a claim by a Hull University student newspaper that students are taking to "beef bouncing"? The story is that a 33-strong university society is planning to raid local farms and push over cows while they are asleep. The craze is supposed to have gripped the United States where the practice is regarded as excellent training for American football. It takes four people to topple a cow as it snoozes standing up, and the secret is to creep up on it quietly. If you make too much noise it "wakes up and wanders around". A vet writes: "Whether the practice is current or not, it sounds a very bad idea." PHS

What can theological reflection hope to add to the millions of words already written about Aids? The short, but ambitious, answer is "a framework of meaning". Those who leap to condemn Aids victims for moral enormities presuppose one kind of framework of meaning, where retribution is writ large. Others who sit down silently beside the victims to bear part of their suffering presuppose another, in which meaning is generated by compassion.

The pragmatic "technological" approach ("use a condom") sidesteps the question of meaning, at the cost of making the experience of the disease strictly meaningless; a matter of hanging on, hoping to be lucky, until the researchers come up with the answer. As I see it, reflection on meaning is an essential feature of our humanity, whatever the context. I offer these thoughts therefore as a preliminary attempt to make emotional and religious sense of a problem threatening to engulf us.

The character of the virus may provide a first clue. It has been described as fragile, "a pathogenic weakling". This is why it needs intimate contact, blood to blood, for its transmission. The link between infection and sexual intercourse is thus no accident. The other known means of transmission, equally presupposes a special degree of intimacy, the brotherhood of the needle, open flesh to open flesh, mother to child. Fragility and intimacy form part of the same pattern.

A second, and perhaps less obvious, clue lies in what the virus does. The invasion of the immune system is a medical disaster, but in an indirect way it too relates to the theme of intimacy. The immune system, like the human skin, protects the boundary between the self and the not-self. How it works is still largely mysterious. That it works is part of the physiological basis for individuality.

An individual organism retains

By wayward values to new vulnerabilities

Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, on the religious symbolism of Aids

its genetic distinctness and identity by refusing to allow replacement of its own genetic material from another source. Only in reproduction does the fusion of distinct genetic material take place.

In almost every other circumstance the barrier between the self and the not-self remains inviolate - unless and until the Aids virus begins to erode it.

In symbolic terms, a connection seems clear. A virus, which depends upon intimacy for its transmission, also happens to expose those who receive it to extreme dangers of invasion from without. It seems only a short step from this conjunction of properties to a general reflection on the link between intimacy and vulnerability.

It is not for nothing that intimate relationships have usually been hedged with conventions, ceremonies and taboos. They involve dangerous moments of exposure, both physically and psychologically. The most intense emotions of shame, rage and hatred can be aroused when intimacy is abused. Most murders take place within the family. The fragile personality is most at risk when engaged in the self-exposure that intimacy demands.

The frontier between the self and the not-self is the battleground on which individuals struggle to

define their personal identity. The familiar sequence, dependence, independence, interdependence signals the movements backwards and forwards across the defences. The role of religion in containing these dangerous experiences works only on the level of convention, ceremony and taboo if religious symbolism touches the actual springs of behaviour. In theory there is every reason why it should. One of the main tasks of Christian theology, for example, is to explore the ramifications of love, both human and divine. It has powerful things to say about the intimacy of love and the vulnerability of lovers. The symbolism of Christ on the cross brings together in shocking juxtaposition the nearness of God to our human condition in its fallenness and vulnerability.

But much of the symbolism that once carried religious meaning has become degraded and trivialized. The conventions about intimacy have been repudiated as outworn, arbitrary, too ridden with fear and guilt about sex to be reliable guides in a supposedly enlightened age. The accumulated wisdom that set restraints on intimate human relationships has largely been squandered. It is small wonder that in a society which has grown so uncertain in its handling of intimacy, new forms of vulner-

ability should make their presence felt. Aids is only one of them.

The relegation of modesty as a virtue is one of the tell-tale signs of what has been happening. Many people, if asked, would spontaneously think of it as a rather old-fashioned virtue. Yet some of the things that go with modesty - privacy, space to be oneself, the right not to be forced into intimacy - can be important, not least for the growing child. Modesty, understood in these terms, is part of the self-restraint that lets other people be themselves.

A convention of modesty can enrich human relationships by increasing the range and variety of responses between people before overtly sexual factors begin to be felt. It is the opposite of what used to happen in the San Francisco bath-houses, now closed by Aids.

A theology that seeks to discover some meaning in Aids has to look beyond the overtly sexual to some of the deeper failures of society in not safeguarding the quality of relationships. The sexual revolution of the 1960s has had irreversible consequences, and that is why no mere re-imposition of moral strictures is likely to be acceptable or lasting. But the fear, guilt and hypocrisy that are used to surround matters sexual are not the only alternative to licence.

Perhaps Aids can teach us a more positive lesson, the need to show more respect for personal integrity, to need to strengthen the link between sexual intimacy and other forms of intimacy, the need to rescue love from trivialization and to re-emphasize its power to wound.

The defendant who recently said in court that for her sexual intercourse was no more significant than having a cup of tea, may think of herself as liberated. For me her remark symbolizes the emptiness of a culture that has thrown away restraint, and now finds itself with an empty house invaded by seven devils more dangerous than the first.

Michael Hornsby on the power switch the May election could bring

Two-way split for Botha?

Johannesburg There is a flavour of 1948 about the forthcoming South African general election, wrote Tertius Myburgh, an Anglicised Afrikaner who edits the *Johannesburg Sunday Times*, in a recent issue of his paper. For the first time in decades, there is a feeling that the old order in white politics is nearing its end.

His content accurately reflects the current mood in white liberal circles, but it needs to be treated with caution. The ruling National Party (NP) remains a formidable force, and there can be no doubt that it will remain the government of South Africa after the May 6 election to the House of Assembly, the white chamber of parliament, where real power still lies.

Having said that, it is certainly true that the poll is shaping up as the most fluid and unpredictable contest since the NP came to power 39 years ago, and the chances of the government's losing significant numbers of parliamentary seats to parties to its left and right are higher than ever before.

On the face of it, the government has an unassailable majority in the House of Assembly, holding 126 of the 178 seats. This, however, somewhat exaggerates the position, as 12 of the 178 seats are reserved for nominated or indirectly elected members, and 10 of these seats are allocated to the NP.

The real contest will be for the 166 directly elected constituency seats, of which 116 are currently held by the NP. To form the government, a party, or coalition of parties, must command a bare majority - 84 - of the directly elected seats. The government would thus have to lose 33 seats, almost 30 per cent of its present total, to lose its majority.

No serious commentator, nor indeed any of President Botha's opponents in the forthcoming contest, believes for a moment that this is likely to happen. What those who talk about the collapse of the old order envisage is a rather more complex situation in which the government's majority is reduced to the point where the incentive for malcontents on both its left and right flanks to defect is dramatically raised.

This scenario presupposes that significant inroads into NP support will be made by both the Conservative Party (CP) and the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) on the right, and the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) and the New Republic Party on the left.

It is argued that if these parties could, say, raise their present total of 48 seats to around 70, reducing



Botha addresses the party: it could be a smaller meeting come May

the government's complement to somewhere in the mid-90s, the potential of the ruling party to fragment would grow sharply as it sought to defend an increasingly ill-defined middle-ground.

What emerges less clearly from this crystal-ball gazing is the precise form that the realignment resulting from such fragmentation might take. There tends to be an assumption that an alliance of reform-minded groups would gain the upper hand. The possibility that a large conservative rump of the NP might be able to patch up its differences with the extreme right-wing parties is less often considered.

What is the likelihood that the NP will suffer losses on the scale envisaged? Oddly, in view of the fact that Botha has spent most of the past six months preparing for a showdown with right-wing forces, it is precisely the threat from the right that now seems to most observers here the least likely to cause any real surprise.

There has been no dramatic increase in popular support for the right since 1982, when 17 gov-

ernment MPs under Andries Treurnicht, a former cabinet minister and Broederbond chairman, broke away to form the CP. The CP and HNP undoubtedly enjoy a strong following in rural areas of the Transvaal and parts of the Orange Free State, and some lower-income white urban constituencies may be within their grasp, but opinion surveys do not give them more than 20 per cent of the total vote.

The hardline policies pursued by President Botha both at home and abroad over the past year have taken the wind from the sails of the two parties. They are further weakened by their inability, which owes as much to personal animosity between Treurnicht and Jaap Marais, the HNP leader, as to any doctrinal differences, to form an electoral pact and thereby avoid competing against each other as well as the NP.

If they can overcome these differences, their electoral prospects would be sharply improved. As things stand, they are not seen as likely to emerge from the election with more than 25-30

seats at most, and their chances of even forming the official opposition, a prospect accepted as almost inevitable a few months ago, are now rated at best as 30-50.

What has been most striking over the past month or so has been the (possibly premature) resurgence of confidence in the ranks of the PFP. A year ago, the PFP was shattered by the resignation of its charismatic Afrikaner leader, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, who pronounced parliament to be a ritual of irrelevance, and the party has spent much of the time since then re-assessing its strategy.

Under Colin Eglin, an old warhorse who had a previous stint as party leader before being replaced by the younger Slabbert, the PFP has done detailed research into voter attitudes, and identified some 30 seats, in addition to the 25 directly elected ones it already holds, which it considers to be realistically within its reach, if not at this election then at the next. It has also discovered that, while up to 40 per cent of white voters are sympathetic to much of the party's policy, such as its pledge to abolish the remaining apartheid laws, only 20 per cent are actually prepared to vote for it, in part because they fear that its policy of holding a national convention to negotiate a new constitution would simply mean handing over power to the out-lawed Afrikaner National Congress.

The PFP has formed an astute electoral alliance with the much smaller and more conservative New Republic Party, the rump of the old United Party of Jan Smuts. This, together with the government's summary rejection of the Natal indaba proposals, the only competitive non-racial alternative to the government's revised version of apartheid, has won the PFP some 10 or 15 seats in Natal alone. Eglin confidently predicted to foreign journalists earlier this month that he expects the PFP-NRP alliance to emerge with 40-45 seats nationwide from the election.

Allied to the growth of PFP confidence has been the discontent stirred up on the left of the NP, and among the more affluent, better-educated and reform-minded urban Afrikaners. It is the election of the NP or seven seats in Natal alone. Eglin confidently predicted to foreign journalists earlier this month that he expects the PFP-NRP alliance to emerge with 40-45 seats nationwide from the election.

The defections of Denis Worrall, South Africa's English-speaking but hitherto NP-supporting ambassador to London, and Wynand Malan, the NP's MP for Randburg near Johannesburg, are unlikely to be followed by others immediately. But they could well be portents.

and, apparently somewhat reluctantly, by *The Times*, to describe the disreputable activities of insiders in the stock market. The latter, who are engaged in shady and possibly criminal activities, profit from their secret knowledge of forthcoming events. The insider needs only an envelope, an elementary knowledge of arithmetic, a minimum of luck, and a warbling sense of honesty.

In fact arbitrage is a perfectly respectable function of the money game which has flourished for at least 100 years, probably longer for gold. It is the practice of switching funds between two or more markets whose price variations are published. Rapid communications, even in the days of the telegraph, made it possible to profit from the variations, often making use of exchange variations. Money was made by brains, effort, and a race against time. The result was a contribution to the functioning of the international price system. Anybody could have a go, if he or she wanted to try. Arbitrage is not essentially crooked.

David Watt

Bear's-eye view of Britain

There is always a small pang of relief in the heart of the columnist who discovers that someone "out there" has really been listening - even if it is only the unwelcome ear of the Soviet propaganda machine. I was therefore rather pleased to find that my New Year's interview with Sir Geoffrey Howe on this page was the subject of an English language commentary soon afterwards from Moscow Radio by one Yevgeny Ivanov.

Ivanov was quite kind to me, noting that in my "daily commentaries for the *Washington Post*" - a paper to which I have probably contributed half-a-dozen articles in my life, the last at least 10 years ago - I have "spoken" of the Tory government as President Reagan's "poodle". I regret to say that he was less generous to Sir Geoffrey, who got it in the neck for his evident determination, in the interview, to put Europe's relationship with the US at the top of his priorities. "It thus turns out," thundered Ivanov, "that Washington's goodwill is more important to London than the prospect of humanity's survival."

Crude, wedge-driving stuff, of the kind that has been pouring out of Moscow in a steady stream since the late 1970s after the Nato decision to deploy cruise missiles. It is particularly crass at this moment because it contrasts so strongly with the present state of Anglo-Soviet relations at government level. While Ivanov is telling the British public that Sir Geoffrey is betraying mankind by keeping so close to the US, his superiors are busy laying out the red carpet for Mrs Thatcher, whose trip to Moscow in six weeks' time is important to them precisely because they believe she has the ear of Reagan.

This raises the intriguing question of how the Russians do, in fact, see Britain's role in the international scheme of things just now. A recent paper by Robin Laird of the Institute of Defense Analyses in Washington, which collects some recent Soviet academic pronouncements on this subject, makes interesting reading.

In the first place it is clear that Soviet analysts continue to pay considerable attention to British security and defence policy. This is partly no doubt because of long habit, partly because we possess nuclear weapons which, as the Russians admit, are still capable of destroying "hard" targets in the Soviet Union, but above all because they believe we still have the "pre-emptive" European role in Nato.

As the Russians see it, Britain since the 1970s has been pulling further away from the US and nearer to Europe. Europe is, in their view, now our main field of interest, but the crucial point is that we have chosen to enhance that interest mainly by exploiting our strong position in Nato and the remains of our special relationship with Washington.

They believe that this, more than any dream of imperialistic glory, explains why we spend

more than any other European power on defence, why we continue to play the key role in Nato's operations on the central front, and why we are moving more into joint European arms procurement. On the other hand, it is also why we bolster Nato defence by allowing the US to use the bases in Britain and why we consistently oppose any "European" defence and foreign policy initiative that appears to cut seriously across Nato and the "Atlantic" connection within it.

This analysis determines Soviet attitudes to the British political parties. Mrs Thatcher, though obviously no friend of the socialist bloc, might be a lot worse. Her equivocal position slows down the development of a stronger "Europeanism" while at the same time acting as a drag on Reagan's foreign policy.

From the Russian standpoint, the worst result of the next general election could well be a break-through by the Alliance parties, since this, in line with David Owen's views, might lead to a genuine "European" defence policy, more effectively resistant to the Soviet Union than the present, rather fractured, mid-Atlantic one.

A Labour victory would be the best outcome since it would effectively destroy Europeanism and Atlanticism at one blow. But here the Russians sound a note of caution. They acknowledge that Labour has become vastly more radical in the past six years and they trust - in the words of V.A. Ryzhkov, the author of a mind-boggling tome *British Labourism: Today Theory and Practice* - that "even reformist rightist Labour leaders cannot fail to take into consideration the opinion of England's organized working masses".

On the other hand, Ryzhkov observes that "unfortunately, experience of history has taught that the words and the deeds of Labourites are two different things".

It is easy to pick holes in this Russian portrait. It is obviously far too clear-cut to do justice to our muddled attitudes and pragmatic compromises. And of course the perennial delusion that the "working masses", whoever those may be, are bound to be lovers of Soviet-style harmony is as laughable as ever. And yet there is some insight here, particularly in the perception that Mrs Thatcher is being carried by the tide of what the Marxists call "objective forces" in the opposite direction from the one in which she is trying to swim.

The Russians will try to play on this when she goes to Moscow - partly using her, with appropriate flattery, as a channel to bear persuasive messages to Reagan over arms control, but partly making trouble through exploiting her desire to "represent" Europe.

She, of course, will be equally exploitative. She is using them to help win the British election. It will be fascinating to see who gets most out of the trip.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

An eerie strip of Alliance light

Sooner or later, a senior Alliance figure was going to have to arrive in the House wearing something in the Alliance's new campaign colour of billious yellow.

It was Mr David Steel who gave this a lead. If what his critics say is true - that he would prefer to conceal some of the Alliance's more controversial policy decisions - his first choice might have been to arrive in yellow underwear. But he walked in yesterday wearing a yellow tie so loud that for a while it drowned out the proceedings. The tie sat there making a noise throughout questions to the Prime Minister, after which it walked out - a strip of dazzling fluorescent moving light with the dark of Mr Steel hovering dimly down each side of it. A somewhat eerie effect.

After a first being deafened, Conservative backbenchers made noises back at the tie. Dress has always influenced the fortunes of politicians. Because he was wearing a donkey jacket at the time, Mr Michael Foot became the first party leader to get bad publicity out of laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. At the Macmillan memorial service on Tuesday, Mr Steel, Dr Owen, Mr Callaghan and others wore morning dress. But Mr Kinnock wore a grey lounge suit. In his party, morning dress is associated with bankers in old cartoons during the pre-war slump; head waiters; Mr Callaghan, and other class enemies. Mr Kinnock thus avoided giving offence to thousands of people who want to overthrow society. For him, it was a matter of etiquette.

Last Monday, Lord Soames' son, Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C), came in wearing a pair of yellow socks. Extremist socks are on the whole to be avoided in an ambitious politician, since like all bold policies they arouse as much opposition as support. If dark socks are worn two days running, no one notices. A now deceased Labour left winger once wore fluorescent red socks two days running. That meant that issues of hygiene were immediately involved. He never recovered the confidence of members who had to sit near him. Mr

Soames has not so far made that error, so it is possible that his career can be saved.

There was one other difficulty for Mr Steel. No one can now remember anything about that tie. But most of us remembered Mr Kinnock's dispute with the Prime Minister about whether the Government had brought down taxation. This was because he said she will become known as "High-taxer Thatcher".

It was one of those remarks which had about it the air of having been thought up at a topical strategy meeting that morning of Mr Kinnock's "top advisers" - people such as Miss Patricia Hewitt, Prof. Hobsbawm, and of course Mr Bryan Gould. Several ideas would have been canvassed.

"I got an idea, Neil. This afternoon, why not call her Madame Cyn of British taxation policy?"

"Don't be bloody daft, boyo. Madame Cyn won't."

So they opted to go for "Neil Dubs Maggie Tax-Thatcher". Mr Kinnock seemed happy enough with it.

Indeed, virtually the entire Labour Party seemed happy yesterday because the main debate was about unemployment. Mr John Prescott, the Opposition spokesman on employment, argued with Mr Kenneth Clarke, the minister responsible to the Commons for employment policy. The start of the debate was remarkable for the absence on the Labour front bench of Mr Gould - that man whom Mr Kinnock now puts in charge of nearly everything, and who has now been put in charge of employment policy. But Mr Prescott put up a good show. For example, commenting on the absence of Mr Clarke's superior (who is a peer, Lord Young, and whom the Commons therefore cannot question), he said that the last time he was in the same room as Mr Clarke's boss, it was a television studio (Labour cheer). "Where's Gould?" Tories shouted. He was of course absent because Mr Kinnock had ordered him to find a cure for Aids.



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STRATEGIC DEFENCE

Mr Kenneth Adelman, the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the United States, will win no medals for diplomacy. His dismissive remark on Wednesday that the Nato allies had "no qualifications for telling us what is the right interpretation of the ABM Treaty" might have been designed to wound and alarm European opinion.

He has since clarified his outburst, explaining that he did not mean what he said. But this small episode has revealed rising tensions within the alliance on the issue of Star Wars when the prospect of President Reagan's successor is concentrating minds everywhere.

Leading figures in the Reagan administration, Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger for instance, favour early, if partial, deployment of strategic missile defences. They think that strategic defence would be more likely to survive a change of president if it were already in place and that, in the meantime, congressional funding of such programmes would be more secure if there were some hardware to show for it. Above all, perhaps, in the present situation, they calculate that realistic plans for deployment of strategic defence, as opposed to merely talking about it, would make the Soviet Union that much more eager to reach an early arms control agreement in the present talks at Geneva.

It should be said that no-one is proposing immediate deployment. The most urgent proposal is that defence systems that use existing "kinetic

kill" technologies (in which a small faster missile is thrown at a larger incoming missile) might begin to be deployed in two years time. That has been enough, however, to set the alarm bells ringing in Western Europe.

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher and Mr Craxi sought inter-allied consultation before any plans for deployment are firmly fixed. That in itself was a reasonable demand which Washington has conceded, not for the first time. US arms negotiators (presumably not including the outspoken Mr Adelman) will be journeying round Western European capitals some time soon.

What raises hackles in Washington, however, is when European allies argue that any developments in missile defence should be in line with the "narrow" interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which seems to forbid deployment altogether, rather than the broad interpretation which leaves a loophole for developing and deploying exotic space-based technologies that did not exist in 1972.

From the standpoint of policy, the European argument is an irritation because it undercuts the US negotiating position at Geneva by diluting the implied threat that SDI is on its way. But some Administration figures — and this emerged in Mr Adelman's comments — also feel indignant about the contrast between the European allies' strict interpretation of the ABM treaty if it seems to prohibit Star Wars, and their unwillingness to hold the Soviet Union to account for its much worse violation of the

treaty in building the Krasnyyok radar station.

That breeds the suspicion — a not unreasonable one — that such arguments are really disguised objections to Star Wars as such. Yet the ABM treaty may not serve opponents of Star Wars as well as they imagine.

For the "broad" treaty interpretation applies only to advanced space systems which will not be ready for deployment for many years yet, whereas the "narrow" view allows a deployment of 100 "kinetic kill" missiles right away. Indeed, the Soviet Union deployed some around Moscow in the 1970s.

It is true that no interpretation, broad or narrow, can be found to justify early deployment of such missiles beyond the total of 100. That, however, is increasingly cited by supporters of SDI to argue that the US should give the six months notice of withdrawal that the ABM treaty stipulates rather than postponing major SDI deployment for decades and then getting bogged down in an irresolvable dispute about whether or not the treaty permits this or that. Straightforward withdrawal, they claim, would gain no more obsequy for President Reagan than muddling through the minefield of treaty interpretation.

European governments must therefore decide whether or not to support strategic defence and then, having decided, argue their case openly. Attempting to obstruct it by way of treaty arguments is serving only to poison relationships across the Atlantic.

MR CLARKE SETS THE TUNE

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and his fellow Cabinet ministers have issued endless warnings about the effect of excessive pay rises on competitiveness and job prospects. They might as well have bayed to the moon.

For the twelve months to last October the rise in average earnings was a steady 7.5 per cent, itself enough to ensure inflation higher than our main competitors. As the latest figures confirmed yesterday, earnings have now started accelerating again.

On Wednesday the employment minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, made a wide-ranging speech on the future of pay bargaining. It is not necessary to agree with every detail of his remedies in order to welcome his call for the nation to reform the system of arriving at pay that has done so much to deepen the depression and still threatens recovery.

The outcome of the British Telecom engineers strike vividly illustrates why such a public debate is needed. Many union members still saw the annual pay increase as virtually a sacred right — and a majority in London maintained this to the end. The link between pay and productivity was recognized, if at all, only as a regrettable necessity.

In this frame of mind, restrictive and anachronistic practices are seen as assets to be negotiated away piecemeal to raise pay settlements. The reality has not fully sunk in that inefficient working holds back pay.

Perceptions in a recently privatized monopoly understandably lag behind those in

the private manufacturing sector where millions have learnt by bitter experience that pay, productivity, profits and jobs are all of a piece. The importance of an individual company's ability to pay is now understood. Even so, the feeling persists that the annual settlement on the going rate — often in a national agreement — remains the basis of any final package.

This is a legacy of the years of high inflation, when employees and their trade union representatives naturally took the rise needed to maintain living standards as the starting point for negotiation. The attitude lingers beyond its cause.

Mr Clarke, however, goes much further than this in his call for more flexibility in bargaining. He applauds companies where pay increases are entirely or partly based on performance and merit and bemoans the idea — enshrined in equal pay legislation — that everyone doing the same job should receive the same level of pay. He rejects the "bogus science" of job evaluation and comparability. He is also keen to abolish national pay rates in favour of regional variations that might allow areas of high unemployment in effect to undercut the South East.

The direction in which Mr Clarke wishes to move is clearly the right one. But the logic of some of his suggestions sounds better in a speech than in the day to day operation of industry.

It is, for instance, important to increase management discretion: to reward merit, to differentiate more by grading,

promotion and performance bonuses. But it would be unrealistic to suppose that the basic pay levels or pay rises of individual employees in large companies or organizations should generally be set in this way. This would make the average employer's life impossibly complex.

Abolition of national industrial pay negotiations — often in origin a defensive move by employers — would do much to destroy the mentality of the going rate. But it is simplistic to suppose that whole cities or regions could price themselves back into jobs this way.

The main thrust of Mr Clarke's thinking is directed at the public sector where national agreements are most heavily entrenched and comparability and job evaluation lead to the greatest bureaucratic nonsense. In the case of the teachers, for example, flat rate national agreements make nonsense of the need to match supply and demand locally and have helped to lower standards by submerging payment on merit.

It is, however, easier to expose the lunacy of present arrangements than to construct good alternatives. In the private sector, the spread and growth of profit related pay and bonuses is a golden key to greater flexibility. In the non-commercial public sector where the Government badly needs to take a lead — there is no single simple mechanism for translating rising national income into the improved living standards in which public servants reasonably want to share.

THE RIOTS IN SPAIN

Renewed violence by Spanish students against the Ministry of Education marks the nemesis of the "Spanish Robbins", the ill-considered massive expansion of university numbers which took place during the late 50s and the 60s as part of Franco's social revolution. It can also be seen, however, as an indication of the fragility of the newly-forged social consensus in post-Franco Spain.

For its university expansion schemes the Spanish government turned to UNESCO for guidance. As the senior official at the Ministry of Education responsible for universities was to confess ruefully during the mood of post-Franco frankness, UNESCO's plans might have been suitable for Central Africa, but not for Spain.

University growth has out-run both financial and human resources. Lowered entry standards and insufficiency of staff have produced a large student body, many of whom have no hope of eventual professional

employment or even of the qualifications which will enable them to seek work abroad as so many Spanish manual workers have done.

The result has been turbulence. The newly re-elected socialist government has set out to do something about it. It has been met by counter demands on the part of student organizations which could only perpetuate overcrowding and under-achievement while throwing yet heavier burdens on the country's overstrained finances.

The students had derived encouragement from the French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's abandonment of comparable reforms in face of student violence. The rioting students enjoy ample support from the far left. Those trade unions controlled by the left are hoping to support the students, though how far they could bring their membership with them in a real showdown is another matter.

On the far right, the detrimen-

of Francoism, still unreconciled to constitutional government, is as prone to participate in or even initiate political violence as the far left. Its organizers may lack a clear political strategy but they are moved by the hope that political violence of any kind may provoke military intervention and a new Franco.

The constitutional right and centre-right have yet to show the political maturity called for by the situation in post-Franco Spain. They have yet to adapt to the imperatives of winning popular recognition as an alternative government rather than playing politics and hoping that discontent with the Socialist government will automatically return them to office.

If the Socialist government successfully faces down the student mobs it will earn sole credit with the Spanish public and its law-enforcement establishment. If it backs down Spanish democracy as a whole could be the loser.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting the land to proper use

From the President of the Country Landowners' Association
Sir, Your leading article, "Friends and neighbours" (February 11), is mistaken. Landowners do not say, "Off with Mr Jopling's head". Landowners welcomed his statement on February 9 as showing that at long last Government is getting to grips with a problem that the Country Landowners' Association saw coming a long time ago.

There is no point in pretending that land will go on growing food, that is not wanted. All the alternative uses that Mr Jopling referred to are realistic ways of stopping land from reverting to unkempt scrub which is no good for naturalists or beauty-seekers or the rural economy.

The planning system will not distinguish merely because the use of agricultural land for development is seen from a different angle. Planning authorities will still be able to refuse permission and will very frequently do so. Land will, however, no longer be frozen into a pattern of agricultural production that the nation has ceased to require.

The great pity is the interdepartmental wrangling that has accompanied this essential shift in Government policy. Since 1976, the Country Landowners' Association has been advocating a Department of Rural Affairs, based on the Ministry of Agriculture. The minister's announcement would surely have been better handled if the department were already in existence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NORRIS, President,
Country Landowners' Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
February 11.

From the Chairman of the Association of Conservation Officers
Sir, The conservation of agricultural land, an irreplaceable resource, has been a fundamental policy of government since the war. In that period the loss of land to development, though large, has generally been contained and related to areas of existing public interest.

Agricultural production has increased so that grain yields, for example, approach four tons to the acre, having doubled twice in 40 years. Part of that increase is due to improved mechanisation or biological engineering, but part is due to increased use of pesticides or, more particularly, by ever-increasing use of nitrogen-based fertilizers which now permeate the ground and threaten our water supplies.

Would it not be better for the

Minister of Agriculture to limit the use of harmful methods of raising yields rather than offer the prospect of development as the ultimate cash crop?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PEARCE
(Chairman, Association of Conservation Officers),
130 Bouverie Avenue South,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

From Viscount Hampden
Sir, The problems facing the rural community cannot be properly resolved whilst the Government continue to confuse income with capital, a difference which the Treasury can never understand.

Agriculture is an income-producing industry, the whole concept based on the farmer having an empty piece of ground and a bag of seeds on Michaelmas day and turning it into grain by the following Michaelmas. Forestry and development in bricks and mortar are capital projects whose annual return is not important.

Farmers need help with their annual income problems. The country may or not need more trees or buildings, but assuming that it does, these developments should be in the hands of the capital providers, not those needing every penny of their output to pay their way.

A simple solution to this conundrum would be to make all rents below a certain level, say, £20 per acre, tax-free in the recipient's hands, on condition that a certain percentage of the surplus, after repairing and management costs, is reinvested by the landowner on rural enterprises on his estate.

The result of this move would be to reduce the cost of farming in areas particularly difficult to farm, leave the rich, fertile and profitable areas to carry on as usual and encourage landowners to provide new enterprises and thus jobs on their estates.

Your obedient servant,
HAMPDEN,
Estate Office, Glynde,
Lewes, East Sussex.

From Councillor B. G. Smalley
Sir, Is the Government using an inverse logic? When there was a need for the nation to become self-sufficient in food production it was deemed necessary to relax planning laws for landowners and farmers. Now that we are over-producing, shouldn't the landowner be subject to the same planning constraints as the rest of the population?

Yours etc,
BRYAN SMALLEY,
The Old Nurseries,
Widford Road,
Muck Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Plainer English

From Dr J. A. D. Ewart
Sir, If Professor Honey (February 11) is right we must use such homely words as "May I take this opportunity of wishing you a pleasant and prosperous morning" rather than the curt and brutal "Morning", which may do psychological harm.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. D. EWART,
Delany, Solebridge Lane,
Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Boat Race troubles

From Mr Patrick G. R. Delafield
Sir, In his vilification of Dan Topley (formerly the exclusive privilege of Cambridge men), Jonathan Fish (article, February 7) clearly demonstrates his inability to grasp the problems facing a Boat Race coach, his coaching team and the president.

It was the absence of unpleasant in-fighting and public laundering of linen that maintained, in part, the spirit of Cambridge's crews and supporters over that infamous decade of losses and made our attitudes the envy of a number of admirable Oxford men who must now be viewing with some misgiving the possibility of a return to their dismal days in the early seventies when one was hard pressed to count an Oxford man on the land at Putney.

May I once again be permitted to remark, in the context of this sad affair, as I did when you kindly allowed me the courtesy of your columns on March 9, 1983, that the Boat Race is far too important to be left to the competitors?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DELAFIELD,
La Fosse, Trinity,
Jersey, Channel Islands.

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor
Sir, T. E. Uley ("Wily or stupid in Ulster", February 7) does no service to the Unionists of Northern Ireland, whose cause he supports, by calling "for the British Government to resolve to govern the province as far as possible like any other part of the United Kingdom". For the truth is that, since 1974, when the Ulster Unionists broke with their Conservative allies, none of the British parties has been able to win a seat in Northern Ireland, while those who have stood with a British political label have achieved a quite deservingly vote.

Politics in Northern Ireland is not about the socio-economic issues which divide the British parties, but about the border and the balance of representation within and between communal parties. As long as this is so, the integration of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom along the lines proposed by Mr Uley will remain a chimera.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement is supported by all the main British political parties and was given overwhelming parliamentary endorsement. If destroyed by direct action on the part of Unionists, fuelled by conspiracy theories such as are raised in Mr Uley's article, then the consequences for Northern Ireland and for the Union would be serious indeed.

Surely Mr Uley, together with other supporters of the Union, should be using his influence to persuade the Unionists to accept the decision of the Parliament to which they claim allegiance and loyalty.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford.

From Mr Andrew Bryson
Sir, Mr T. E. Uley links the "problem" in Northern Ireland with the fact that the province is not governed in the same way as the rest of the country.

Dangerous thinking indeed! For who is responsible for the differences between the ways the two parts of the country are governed? The British Government and the British political parties.

Lloyd George's Government of Ireland Act (1920) imposed devolution on a region intrin-

Call for reform of secrets Acts

From the Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford

Sir, Your leading article (February 9), which reviewed the conflicting views and practical issues presented by any reform of the Official Secrets Acts, will reinforce scepticism about the prospects of early legislative action.

Notwithstanding wide support from the freedom of information campaign, can we be confident that any incoming government will differ from previous governments which have preferred to live with the "discredited section two" rather than to resolve the problems of reforming the Official Secrets Acts? And would priority be given to a freedom of information Bill if that should be accepted as an essential feature of reform?

There are reasons to justify positive answers to these questions. First, action to strengthen through legislation the safeguards to national security could not leave section two untouched.

Secondly, the amendment or removal of section two would necessitate a revision of the declaration under the Official Secrets Acts which Civil Servants are required to sign and, more widely, of the Whitehall guidelines for the classification and handling of information.

This would provide the shock to the system which you have advocated, but it would not necessarily lead to greater freedom of information. That could well depend more on the growing pressure for access to personal files or information held by public and other authorities, the subject of a private member's Bill to be debated later this month.

As that Bill illustrates, Parliament is likely to find it increasingly difficult to wait upon whatever the present or a future Government may decide to do, or not to do. Your suggestion of a "comprehensive survey" by a select committee of the Commons points to the most constructive way forward.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK NAIRNE,
St Catherine's College,
Oxford,
February 10.

Sprightly President

From the High Commissioner for Nigeria

Sir, Your brief reference in today's issue (February 10) to rumours concerning the hospitalisation of President Babangida in Paris may cause some concern among your readers who are interested in Nigerian affairs.

President Babangida was actually injured in 1969 in our civil war and this has caused him sometimes severe pain now and again, leading him, for example, to cut short his participation on January 15 this year in a public ceremony commemorating the war. The decision to submit him at this time to surgical treatment was taken by his doctors partly because of convenience, work on the Budget for 1987, in particular, having been concluded.

The inference in the reported rumours of a gunshot wound is that he is the victim of a recent incident. This is not at all the case. Nigerian press reports and photographs of his departure for the treatment clearly showed him to be his old ebullient self, in good spirits and as humorous as ever. His steps were becoming of his profession — sprightly.

Yours faithfully,
G. DOVE-EDWIN,
Office of the High Commissioner for Nigeria,
9 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

Ungracious note?

From Mr David H. Wells
Sir, In his comments on the new stage production of *High Society* (February 7) Benny Green makes understandable references back to the very popular film and the vocal prowess of Crosby and Sinatra.

However, when he asserts that none of the principals in the new version has any track record as a singer he is surely being grossly unfair to Angela Richards, who has been delighting the discerning musical player for years.

Come to think of it, what sort of musical track record did Grace Kelly ever have?

Yours faithfully,
D. H. WELLS,
10/98 Cottenham Park Road,
West Wimbledon, SW20.

sically unsuited to it, and in the teeth of sustained opposition from Carson and Craig. On top of that, the British parties then refused to function in the province, thereby ensuring that politics in the region would become stuck in a communal groove.

The question is: when are the Conservative, Labour, SDP and Liberal parties — i.e. those parties who either govern, or aspire to govern, Great Britain and Northern Ireland — going to make themselves accountable to the electorate not only in Great Britain, but in Northern Ireland as well? When are they going to offer themselves as a serious alternative to the "tribal" politics they are always complaining about?

Mr Uley is right to suggest that the only way forward is to include Ulster in the same system of government as the rest of the UK. But no democrat need be shamed about such a proposal: for the corollary is that you would be restoring effective democracy and normal politics to a region whose present troubles flow directly from the lack of them.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BRYSON,
16 Northampton Park, NI.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 13 1861

The revolt described below was quelled the same day by an armed posse of soldiers and police, some 900 strong. Harsh retribution followed; 30 ringleaders were hanged, each receiving 96 lashes.

REVOLT OF THE CONVICTS AT CHATHAM.

CHATHAM, FEB. 12.

For several weeks past the most mutinous spirit has prevailed among several hundred of the inmates of the prison, and although very severe measures have been resorted to by the authorities removing a number of the worst characters to Millbank and Pentonville, yet all attempts have proved comparatively ineffectual to restore order.

Immediately after the outbreak on Friday, about 20 of the principal actors in that mutiny were chained together and placed in one cell, to await an order from Captain Gambier as to the punishment to be inflicted on them. Throughout the whole of Saturday and following days these men kept up a continual disturbance in the prison, which was taken up by the other convicts in the cells, and at times the noises made by their hootings and yells were completely overpowering. On the usual gangs being taken in the prison yard, several of the convicts again refused to go to their work, and some of them commenced assaulting the keepers and warders who had them in charge. At a preconcerted signal about 150 convicts made a sudden rush on the keepers whom they quickly succeeded in overpowering, and almost at the same instant the other convicts, who were out of their cells waiting to commence work, turned upon their keepers, assailing them with fearful oaths, and threatening to massacre the whole of them. At this time several hundred convicts were free from all control, and the keys of the cells having been forced from the warders, those who were in the cells were quickly released.

The wildest uproar now ensued, the whole of the prisoners being loose within the prison, and ready for any excesses. Captain Gambier, who happened to be within the building, together with Captain Powell, the governor, Mr. Messer, deputy-governor, and the other principal officers of the establishment, were soon among the convicts, whom they endeavoured to induce to proceed to their cells. Having, however, to contend with upwards of 1,000 of the most depraved ruffians, and the guard only numbering 150 men, their efforts were entirely useless, and, from the fierce threats used towards the officers, there is little doubt that murder would have been committed had any attempt to interfere with the convicts been resorted to. After overpowering the keepers, a large body of convicts rushed to the office of Captain Powell, where they commenced destroying all the books, papers, accounts, and other official documents connected with the prison, smashing the whole of the windows, and destroying every article of furniture on which they could wreak their vengeance. An attempt was then made to set fire to the prison, and the building was actually fired in several places. The wardens, however, at great risk to themselves, got out the hose and also the fire engine, which is always kept ready at the prison, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Numerous hands of convicts then proceeded to destroy every article within the prison on which they could lay their hands, valuable clocks being wantonly smashed, and several costly instruments called "moxieties," which are used at night to register the visits of the wardens, being smashed to atoms. Scarcely a pane of glass was left whole in the prison, the most terrible havoc being committed on everything which came in the way of the infuriated ruffians.

As soon as it was ascertained that all hope of restoring order, without the assistance of the military, was at an end, messengers were despatched to the garrison for a strong body of troops, and also to the dockyard for the Metropolitan police and the guard always on duty at that establishment.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY JACOBS,
Joint Treasurer, Liberal Party,
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1.

Unequal seating

From Mr Antony Jacobs
Sir, As your article, "How to take the polls apart" (February 3) rightly indicates, if the Tories were to poll 40 per cent of the vote they would gain 321 seats whilst if the Alliance were to poll 20 per cent of the vote they would gain just 17.

Of course, Alliance supporters are told to stop whingeing and to concentrate on gaining the same level of support as the Tories and Labour achieve; then all would be well. Regrettably, this is simply untrue. If, for example, Tories, Labour and Alliance were each to gain 33 per cent of the votes, very roughly the Conservatives would gain 280 seats, Labour 290 seats and Alliance 75 seats.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY JACOBS,
Joint Treasurer, Liberal Party,
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1.

Digging up the past

From Mr Brian Read

Sir, Lord Herford (report, February 10) is not the first member of his family to damage a valuable archaeological find. Two hundred years ago his ancestor, General Henry Seymour Conway (1721-1795), who was born at Ragley Hall, shipped a unique megalithic monument that had been discovered in Jersey in 1785 to his home at Park Place, Henley. The Society of Antiquaries was so indignant that it refused to accept Conway when he applied for membership.

Yours sincerely,
BRAIN READ,
50 St Mark's Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Space shortage for start-ups

By Teresa Poole

Shortages of small workshops are again inhibiting business start-ups, according to a survey published this week by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The problem is not confined to the growth areas of the southern and Home counties but is also found in many parts of Yorkshire, the North-West, Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Worcestershire.

In seeking a remedy for the situation, the ABCC considers that the underlying causes vary from North to South. In the

South the main difficulty is the shortage of land and the high prices for available land. In the North, it is difficult for developers to get an economic return on their investments.

The ABCC suggests a search by the Government of land registers in the South to identify suitable parcels of land which could be freed for workshop development. In the North the Industrial Buildings Allowance should be restructured for units up to about 1,000 square feet. There should also be a relaxation of the rules governing urban development grants for small units.

The shortage of accommodation - units up to 1,500 square feet - is a problem that many believed had already been resolved.

One of the most successful innovations has been the managed workspace complex which provides back-up management services such as reception and secretarial facilities.

There are more than 300 of these villages, administered mainly by large firms such as Shell UK, ICI and British Telecom. The evidence suggests that the failure rate of small firms in these developments is lower than average.

Profits at the end of the line

Julian Richer is an empire-builder of the old British school, although he avoids, with infinite charm, actually saying as much himself, writes Ann Warden.

He expects his group of 11 end-of-line hi-fi, video and music shops to earn him half a million pounds, on a turnover of more than £8 million in the coming year, and in the past year, which saw a turnover of £6.05 million, he has moved his headquarters from what he says was a "cupboard under London Bridge station" to altogether more dignified surroundings a few streets away.

"I'm just a marketing man, really. My technical knowledge is zilch," he said on Tuesday, but enthusiasm for his job first began at school at Clifton College, Bristol, where he bought up old hi-fi units and sold them at a profit, bubbles over.

Mr. Richer, who is 27 and from London, owns all but 2 per cent of the business; the rest is held by a non-



Julian Richer: 'Building the company up strong'

executive director. Questioned about possible flotation, however, he adds: "I'm dead against the USM. I feel access to public funds will only encourage me to go faster than I should. What I'd much rather do is build the company up strong."

His thoughts are on consolidation, after a year of expansion with the opening of seven shops, which pared-down profits. The company, begun when he was 19, now has 70 staff in cities including Glasgow, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh and Leeds, and is called, grandly, the Richer Group, with three divisions: Richer Sounds, Vision and Music.

Mr. Richer's only conspicuous boast is that the first Sounds shop, the tiny, cramped core of his business at London Bridge, is 20 times busier than Marks & Spencer at Marble Arch, in terms of sales per sq ft per year.

He chose Stockport for the first new shop because of the sales potential from traffic at a motorway junction. His day still quite often stretches to 16 hours, from a 6.30 am start, but he adds: "I don't regard it as work, because I enjoy it so much. So many people are in a rut because they don't actually enjoy it. A lot of people are scared of taking a risk."

One warning he gives to entrepreneurs, however, is about going into business with friends. Yet Mr. Richer, who clearly gets on well with his staff, has relatives working for him, including his younger sister, Lucy.

He is reticent about business heroes but the name of Marks & Spencer - where his parents first met as employees - tends to crop up. He makes a point of giving his workers warm clothes against the warehouse chill, and believes the kind of benevolence towards staff, for which M & S has a name, improves the running of a business.

As for the future, he hopes, in five or 10 years' time, to make Richer House's panelled, brass and lace adorned offices in Wild Rents - a street that must be one of London's scruffiest - the headquarters of a shop chain to rival any other British big name.

BRIEFING

Companies and potential franchisees in the Midlands can meet at the two-day Midlands Franchise and Business Opportunity Exhibition on Saturday May 30 and Sunday May 31 at the National Exhibition Centre.

The Midlands show begins a series taking in Brighton, Bristol, Leeds and Newcastle-upon-Tyne later in the year.

Details from: Nick Helyer, Acumex Ltd., Drevitt House, 865 Ringwood Road, Bournemouth BH11 8LW (Tel: 0202 581122).

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Continued on page 39

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Comet commute

The journey into work will soon be a lot easier for the top men at Comet, the electrical arm of Woolworth Holdings, now that it is moving its commercial office from Hull to London. Its new offices in the north London suburb of Stanmore will be only a couple of miles away from the Dillons HQ in Edgware, where, ironically, most of the Comet top brass used to work and still own houses. Last August, Eddie Stryker switched from being managing director of Dillons to managing director of Comet, taking with him a selection of Dillons colleagues, including Brent Wilkinson as buying and marketing director and Peter "bugged" Hopper as a buying director. Could the move to London be a signal that further Dillons defections are imminent? Stay tuned for further bulletins...



"It's from British Airways - our shares have been sent to Kamechi."

Inside track

The state of insider trading prosecutions currently going on across the Atlantic is becoming something of a circus. All guilty defendants have been sentenced to a year and a day in jail - a comparatively small price to pay for the millions of dollars now safely stashed away. Prosecuting attorney Rudolph Giuliani has now hit out at the leniency of the sentences telling an audience of US dignitaries - including Arthur Levitt, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange - that they were tantamount to announcing that "you may as well do it and get away with it." All eyes will now be on luckless Dennis Levine, the former Drexel Burnham & Lambert dealer, up for sentencing on Wednesday, to see if he gets similar treatment.

Warrington and Ramcora Development Corporation has made a surprising choice for the figurehead of its campaign to attract investors to the North-west. Spearheading the campaign - and speaking to fifty of the City's top institutional investors at Claridge's next Monday - is the Duke of Westminster, who owns more property in central London than almost anyone else.

It's a secret

Staff at Debenhams are busily destroying all evidence, it seems, of plans to call the lingerie department "Secret Affair". Despite claims by its public relations staff at its Oxford Street headquarters - "We don't know what you're talking about - there never were plans to call it Secret Affair" - I gather that at its Preston, Lancashire, branch, the first of its stores to be remodelled, the "Secret Affair" sign is still displayed. "But we don't call it that anymore," giggled one sales girl.

Over-booked

British Airways has already booked the Albert Hall for its first annual meeting on June 29 and prayers are now being sent heavenward that its list of 1.2 million shareholders will by then be considerably reduced. It estimates that it will probably have around 500,000 shareholders and its public affairs supremo David Burrows says he is "keeping his fingers crossed" that not all of them will turn up. The Albert Hall has seats for just 4,399 people - plus four wheelchair spaces.

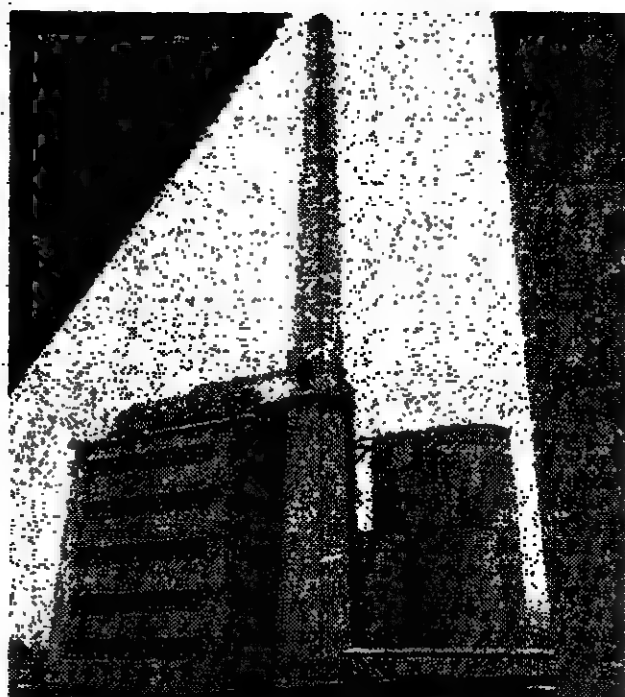
Woman driver

With the levers of power in Palace, Parliament and Westminster all in feminine hands, the rule is rampant. Women striking terror in the hearts of men are not of course a modern phenomenon. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir David Rowe-Ham, lunching yesterday with the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Anne Mallinson, recalled the darling of the Ancient Brits, Boudicca, whose "chariot" had knives upon each wheel, which were guaranteed to frighten Roman nerves of steel. But nothing they really bated. Which gave them much more fight. Was when she put her left hand out. And then turned to the right.

Carol Leonard

Cement splits to face frost of competition

Now that the old cartel has gone, the industry can shed its armour and charge variable prices



Blue Circle: moving in the right direction

One of the oldest cartels in the country has been disbanded leaving British cement manufacturers to fight it out. Blue Circle Industries, Rugby Portland Cement and Rio Tinto-Zinc, will now be able to charge variable prices throughout the country responding, if needs be, to local market conditions.

The industrial logic behind the disbanding of the cartel has been clear for some time but the manufacturers, in particular Blue Circle, the market leader with a 56.5 per cent share, have been reluctant to bite the bullet.

Blue Circle's results for the first half of last year revealed that, after exceptional costs, it lost money from selling cement in Britain - by all accounts a sorry state of affairs.

This goaded the group into action and, armed with two newly modernized plants and with a substantial reduction in manpower underway, it no doubt felt more able to abandon the armour which in recent years has been more of a hindrance than a help.

The common price agreement, as the cartel is more politely known, has been in existence since 1934. It has successfully defended itself over the years, maintaining that it was in the public interest for cement prices to be fixed country-wide with the only variations allowed being attributable to haulage costs.

The CPA was designed to create the price stability which would enable manufacturers to make long-term capital

expenditure decisions in an industry notorious for the high cost of manufacturing plant.

In an inflationary environment where demand was rising it was a seller's market and the British manufacturers were in clover. However, faced with a declining market after the construction industry peak in 1973, the cement majors were vulnerable.

The amount of cement manufactured in Britain fell from 20 million tonnes in 1973 to just over 13 million tonnes last year and the industry reduced its capacity accordingly.

However, the manufacturers were accused of complacency and it was claimed that they tended to rely on price increases rather than cost reductions to increase their profitability.

The geographical position of the country made it seemingly impossible for customers

to buy their cement elsewhere, particularly given the high costs of haulage and the currency risks.

By the late 1970s, however, overcapacity in Britain was accompanied by a surplus in Europe and the rest of the world. The British market became a perfect target for importers. The situation also played into the importers' hands since it was impossible - courtesy of the common price agreement - for a British producer to respond to local difficulties by strategic price cutting.

Imports have dribbled into Britain from several common countries as well as from Spain, Greece and West Germany since the early 1980s. Rumours of significant volumes of imports have never been substantiated in mainland Britain primarily because of importers' difficulties in securing large customers. Cement imports have

tended to be an emotive issue, particularly since many of the European producers enjoy government subsidies for their cement or clinkers.

A more insidious development, however, has been the growth in the use of substitute materials or cements. Blast furnace slag and pulverized fuel ash are the two main materials which can be blended successfully with ordinary Portland cement without impairing its cementitious properties. They are substantially cheaper than cement.

These account for twice as much of the market as imports so the British producers' increased flexibility will have to deal with this threat also.

Large users of cement such as RMC Group, Redland, Marley and Tarmac stand to benefit from the disbanding of the CPA. They will be able to "bulk buy" at discount prices while still receiving the same quality of product and service.

The emphasis on low-cost production will have the effect of putting a downward pressure on cement prices.

Smaller users may be feeling more vulnerable since they do not exercise much market muscle and many of them may be situated in outlying areas which were previously serviced by one of the conditions of the CPA.

What manufacturers such as Blue Circle will do about supplying uneconomical areas such as the outer reaches of Scotland and the South West is as yet unknown but they may start by charging more commercial prices for their product.

Blue Circle has been an increasingly unattractive investment compared to the other main investment vehicle in this industry, Rugby Portland Cement, because of its lack of success in its domestic market and the volatility of its overseas earnings.

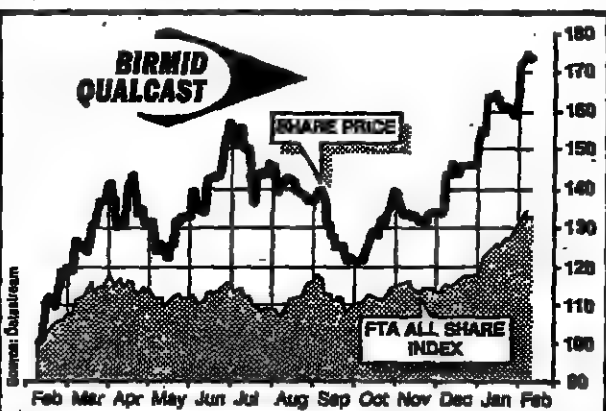
Rugby has faced the problem of a static British cement market by investing in timber-related businesses in Britain and America.

Although Blue Circle's investment in the US has gone some way to comforting investors, the group is still perceived as introverted and undynamic. The disbanding of the CPA may be indicative of a more forward looking management style at BCI.

Although it could be some time before the financial effects of this change of heart is felt, at least the group is moving in the right direction.

Alexandra Jackson

Tricky route through the ether at Capital



could become a high growth industry.

And there is likely to be keen interest in the issue, especially among Capital Radio's 4 million listeners. An early premium looks likely.

Kennedy Brookes

Michael Golder, chairman of the Kennedy Brookes restaurant, hotel and travel chain feels as if he is defending a position after being told to spike his own guns.

To fall in with Accounting Standard SSAP 22, he has got to amortise, or eliminate completely, intangible assets from his balance sheet.

Those assets are key names in the gastronomic world like Mario and Franco, Wheeler's, Maxims and the Cafe Des Amis, which might not mean a lot North of Watford, but have a strong niche in the South, and are said to be the unwanted focus of bidders.

Biting the bullet, Kennedy Brookes has written them down to nil, which has resulted in a £3,780,000 extraordinary item below the line, and inclusive of that, takes £21 million off the balance sheet.

Naturally, Mr Golder thinks they are worth a lot more than that, and will say so if the bid ever materialises. However, a revaluation of property has increased net assets per share 74p to 139p.

Meanwhile last year's profits, hit by the downturn in US tourism and bad weather, provide some sort of a redoubt, thanks to some good housekeeping.

Turnover was up five per cent to £43.8 million, but profits climbed 39 per cent to £5,819,000.

Earnings per share of 27p put the shares on a p/e of 10 at last night's 270p, which is reasonable, but doesn't seem to reflect bid possibilities.

The increase in dividend from 1.54 pence to 195p looks good tactics to earn the support of shareholders.

Birmid Qualcast

Birmid Qualcast's 30 per cent increase in pretax profits to £13.1 million was in line with market expectations, but the

dividend increase of 27 per cent was a little more than expected. The shares rose 84p to 176p.

Overall turnover was static at £203,787, but included a 30 per cent fall in engineering, a 23 per cent rise in the heating division, a 6.6 per cent gain in home and garden equipment and a 5.6 per cent fall in foundries.

Engineering made operating losses of £1.09 million compared with profits of £232,000, due mainly to the sharp drop in demand from farmers and local authorities for irrigation equipment.

Birmid has now sold the loss-making subsidiaries, which will lead to loss elimination of £1.6 million this year. Although the company raised £2.6 million cash from the sales, there was a £4.6 million book loss taken as an extraordinary item.

Extraordinary, including stock write-offs, totalled £5.1 million compared with £4.2 million the previous year.

Gas central heating concern, Potterton, took advantage of a buoyant market. Demand for replacement boilers on systems put in 20 years ago, when Potterton already had a significant market share, was keen.

Home and garden had a mixed year. Lawnmowers increased profits and held their market share at around 45 to 50 per cent, despite the overall drop in the market of some 5 to 7 per cent. Bathroom ceramics were a runaway success, but kitchens produced losses of several hundred thousand pounds.

Foundries made operating profits of £3.2 million against £1.3 million and are now seen as an area of opportunity, as multinational motor groups start to switch sourcing of components back to Britain.

Profits this year should rise to £16.2 million, giving an underpinning prospective p/e ratio of 9.7. The tax charge may rise to 26 per cent compared with 21.5 per cent last year.

The rise in the tax charge to more normal levels over the next few years could keep the rating depressed, although news on possible acquisitions might add excitement.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Bank and IFS bring out the hairshirts

The fiscal hairshirt promises to become the highlight of this year's spring collections. Yesterday, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Bank of England, each in its own way, urged the Chancellor to trim his borrowing requirement in the Budget.

The IFS, now very definitely carrying the London Business School stamp of its new director, Bill Robinson, argues for a cut in the public sector borrowing requirement to £6 billion in the March 17 Budget. This would still leave room for a couple of billion of income tax cuts. All this is based on an oil price assumption of \$15 a barrel, somewhat below current levels and the target of \$18 a barrel set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. If the Treasury chooses to assume an \$18 a barrel oil price for 1987/88, then the PSBR target should be lower still, perhaps £5 billion. The original target, it may be recalled, was £7 billion.

The Bank of England, which handled the distribution of its February Quarterly Bulletin with rather more care than the Ministry of Defence with the secret file on the Zircon project, is of a similar view, although the message has to be conveyed more discreetly.

There are, in the Bank's view, several factors which mitigate against an early reduction in interest rates. The recorded inflation rate is expected to settle at about 4 per cent for a time, but both it and the underlying rate are expected to show some modest upturn as the year progresses. Sterling's performance continues to be disappointing, and its recovery has

lagged well behind that of the oil price. Bank lending remains strong and, this may come as a surprise to the markets, M0 is still regarded as a problem.

The Bank is prepared for a good M0 figure for January, to be published next Thursday. It is also prepared to regard this as something of a freak. The official view is that the underlying rate of growth of M0 remains firmly locked in the upper half of its 2 to 6 per cent target range.

The Chancellor, the Bank believes, could offset some of these adverse factors by announcing a borrowing reduction. This, coming after this year's PSBR, undershoot would, it is felt, improve the environment for interest rate cuts. This year's undershoot, while welcomed by the Bank, is causing one or two problems. Funding the PSBR exactly is going to prove very difficult. Officials concede that getting within £500 million either side of the PSBR outturn would be good going.

The route to lower interest rates, on both IFS and Bank arguments, is through market confidence, and notably the confidence of the foreign exchange markets. One should look very carefully at such arguments. The foreign exchanges, if they notice it at all, will regard a lower PSBR target as a bull factor for sterling for, at most, a week, before a new opinion poll or set of trade figures directs them elsewhere. If there are pressing options, either on taxation or public spending, is it worth forsaking them for a week of grace in the currency markets?

Problems before take-off

First dealings in British Airways provoked the knee-jerk response: the shares had been sold too cheaply. Unlike, for example, Britoil.

The Energy Minister of the day, now our Chancellor of the Exchequer, did everything by the book. He opted for the tender method of sale in order that the investing public could within limits itself determine the true market price of Britoil shares. To prevent rigging of the tender, he also fixed the minimum tender price dangerously close to "the likely striking price".

It all went horribly wrong. The Britoil issue failed to catch the imagination of the investing public, and a malevolent, and crucially timed, Opec statement on the bearish prospects for oil prices scuppered the share sale after the price had been fixed.

The plain fact is that seeking the "correct" price for a public offer of shares is an exercise in spurious precision. Investors invest in expectation of a profit. The aim is to hope that the expected profit is neither too large, nor so small that it deters would-be buyers altogether.

There was a moment during the course of the BA flotation when those involved were having sleepless nights.

For after the government "health warning" about the unsuitability of BA shares for first-time buyers, public interest in the issue dried up almost completely. Phones at the BA share information office ceased to ring.

The Transport Secretary, John Moore, may not have been wise to say what he did. He was certainly capable of being widely misunderstood. What is certain is that after the health warning, there was a need for even greater caution in pricing. Had the Government stood firm on its initial thoughts of selling BA shares at 140p, the outcome might well have been totally different. There were two big wild cards which could have upset the issue seriously.

First, the market. There was no way of telling that the stock market would rise spectacularly between price fixing and first dealings. Had it fallen 10 per cent instead of risen by that amount, the 20/20 visionaries would now be saying that the issue was clearly overpriced.

Secondly, the Middle-East. Had the Lebanon hostage crisis escalated into a confrontation with the US, North Atlantic traffic would have fallen and US and Japanese investor support for BA would certainly have been jeopardized.

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Holder	From	To	% gain
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Robinson	25p	26p	+4.0%
Yitang Jute	24p	25p	+4.2%
Drek Group	25p	26p	+4.0%
Burdens Inv	20p	21p	+5.0%
Audiotronic	4p	5p	+25.0%
Paul Michael	13p	15p	+15.4%
Hobson	10p	12p	+20.0%
Campari Intl	28p	30p	+7.1%

Prices as at November 1986 - includes adjustments for rights, scrippies, etc., but dividends not included.

Remember, these companies are still trading and they often have quite sizeable assets. Apart from the very few that do go to the wall - and they really are surprisingly few - the only way a share price that has fallen to mere pennies to go up!

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From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

COFFEE		Tone		Ida			
Mar	1560-598	Cash	362.00-363.00	Apr	85.30	95.50	
May	1670-598	Three Months	372.00-373.00	Jun	85.00	96.30	
Jul	1586-597	Vol	Tone	Aug	85.00	94.20	
Sep	1912-610	Vol	Ida			Vol 5	
Nov	1600-598			Pig Meat vol 2			
Jan	1544-540	ALUMINUM		Live Cattle Contract			
Mar	1685-590	Cash	850.00-851.00	p. per kilo			
Vol	2205	Three Months	852.00-863.00	Month	Open	Close	
		Vol	Ida	Apr	uno.	94.70	
SOYABEAN		Cash	4750	Feb	92.50	93.20	
Apr	194.4-23.0	Vol	Ida	Jun	97.00	96.00	
Jan	119.3-18.0	NICKEL		Aug	97.50	95.50	
Oct	112.3-12.1	Cash	2418-2440			Vol 14	
Aug	114.1-13.0	Three Months	2442-2445	LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
Dec	119.2-15.5	Vol	Ida	2 per tonne			
Feb	118.5-17.0	Tone	Steady	Month	Wheat	Barley	
Vol	110			Mar	Close	Close	
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		MEAT AND LIVESTOCK		Jul	118.10	115.25	
Useful prices		COMMISSION		Aug	119.10	118.50	
Official Turnover figures		Average (stockist prices at		Sep	121.50	uno.	
Prices in £ per metric tonne		representative markets on		Nov	98.50	98.50	
Prices in £ per cwt for some		February 12		Dec	101.30	100.95	
London Wet & Co. Ltd. report		Old Cattle, 83.21p per kg liv		Jan	104.15	103.90	
COPPER GRADE A		(-0.68)		Vol: Worst		950	
Cash	635.00-665.50	Sheep pens, 77.13p per kg		Jan	98.00	98.00	
Three Months	649.00-695.50	(-15.07)					
Vol	300	Old Pigs, 77.09p per kg liv		LONDON POTATO FUTURES			
Tone	Easier	(-1.00)		2 per tonne			
STANDARD CATHODES		Eng. and Wales:		Month	Open	Close	
Cash	605.00-665.50	Cattle nos. down 5.9 %, ave.		Apr	153.00	151.80	
Three Months	665.00-695.50	Sheep nos. down 24.9 %, ave.		May	177.50	177.30	
Vol	250	price, 172.45p-73.8p, ave.		Nov	172.50	68.00	
Tone	Outlet	Pig nos. up 4.2 %, ave.		Feb	98.00	98.00	
LEAD		price, 77.22p-1.22)		Vol: Best		Vol: Best	
Cash	258.00-268.00	Scotland:				Vol: Best	
Three Months	300.00-305.50	Cattle nos. up 22.1 %, ave.		BIFLEX			
Vol	1000	price, 162.10p-0.9p		Q.M.L. Freight Futures Ltd Dry			
Tone	Steady	Sheep nos. down 26.4 %, ave.		Cargo Report (\$10 per tonne)			
ZINC HIGH GRADE		price, 168.53p-18.23)		Apr 17	High/Low	Close	
Cash	451.00-482.00	Pig nos. up 1.1 %, ave.		Jul 81	775.0-779.0	760.0	
Three Months	477.00-478.00	price, 74.9p		Oct 81	855.0-865.0	860.0	
Vol	170	Scotland:		Jan 82	775.0-779.0	770.0	
Tone	Steady	Cattle nos. up 22.1 %, ave.				780.0	
SILVER LARGE		price, 168.53p-18.23)		Vol 122 ton - Open Int: 2123			
Cash	352.00-393.00	LONDON MEAT FUTURES		Spot market contracts			
Three Months	352.00-393.00	Live Pig Contract p. per kilo					
Vol	1000	Month					
Tone	Steady						

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Pride returns to the Jaguar owner

How times have changed for Jaguar owners. Only a few short years ago meeting another Jaguar owner was like attending a doctor's surgery - a time for swapping notes about recurring ailments and the mounting cost of medication. The parting shot was all too frequently "that's the last Jaguar I'll buy".

The dramatic change in the Coventry company's image which has taken place recently was brought home within hours of a Jaguar Sovereign 3.6 test car being delivered. In my drive, on public car parks and even during brief halts at traffic lights, would-be owners of the new model launched four months ago wanted to congratulate me on my choice and lament the fact that they were being quoted 6 to 9 months delivery despite, in some cases, being prepared to pay over the odds.

One former owner said: "I had four Jaguars in 10 years. When they were running they were better than the Mercedes my son preferred. But I finally gave up the struggle and joined him. Now the reports of this new Jaguar are so overwhelmingly good I am swapping back. I am not worried about the long delivery times. Mercedes are just as bad."

The 18-year-old X16 which the new model replaces had outstanding ride-comfort. Even Mercedes costing twice as much could not match it.



Jaguar Sovereign: Even smoother and quieter than its X16 predecessor

One of the cornerstones of this was its considerable weight, which is the best of all bump smoothing dampers. When Jaguar revealed the new X16 with an alloy engine and lighter body there was immediate concern about the effect.

After some 500 miles of fast-motoring, winding cross-country "A" roads and congested city traffic I am delighted to report that Jaguar has done what many thought impossible - made the new car even smoother and quieter. It waits along with its passengers cocooned in splendid luxury against the noise and bustle of other traffic.

The armchair driving position which was such a feature of the old model has been modified to provide more space and reduce the "sitting in a tunnel" feeling. The new

Vital statistics
Model: Jaguar Sovereign 3.6
Price: £24,995
Engine: 3590cc aluminium in line 6

Performance: 0-60mph 8.9 sec, maximum speed 135mph
Official consumption: Urban 18.7mpg, 56mph 36.2mpg, 75mph 30.4mpg
Length: 16.4 feet
Insurance: Group 7

all-electric adjustment of the driver's seat is one of the best I have encountered.

The lightweight engine is produced in two versions, a

single overhead camshaft 2.9 litre with 2 valves a cylinder and a 3.6 litre 4 valves a cylinder twin cam. Jaguar X16 and Sovereign models are available with either engine.

The standard Sovereign comes comprehensively equipped with air conditioning, four-speed automatic, cruise control, Bosch anti-lock braking, automatic ride leveling, leather seats and door castings, walnut fascia, heated door mirrors, headlamp wash and stereo radio/cassette with 6 speakers.



Toyota Celica Cabriolet: Formidable competition for established convertibles

strengthening is done at the factory in Japan but the conversion is completed by the British-owned but Bavarian-based Völk company which has been in the coach work business for more than 60 years.

New arrival
International Motors, the West Bromwich-based group headed by entrepreneur Mr Bob Edmiston has just added a new four-wheel drive

established Subaru range. The Isuzu Trooper, a rugged cross-country vehicle popular with Australian "bush" drivers goes on sale immediately in four versions - 2.2 litre petrol engine; short and long wheel base estates costing £9,999 and £11,999 respectively and 2.2 litre turbo diesels selling for £10,998 (short) and £12,999 (long).

The Trooper will be sold initially by 70 dealers mostly from the established Subaru network but including a number recruited from the pre-

vious Isuzu importer who went out of business recently.

● Ford has asked its dealers to contact owners of 100,000 Escorts and Orion manufactured between January and June last year to replace the release cap on the engine cooling system. A faulty relief valve is the problem. It will not of itself cause the engine to overheat but if it should overheat for any other reason the resulting build up of steam could blow a hose or worse.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

JAGUAR & DAIMLER
AUTHORISED DEALERS

JAGUAR SCOTLAND

TAGGARTS

2022 Marshall Rd, Glasgow, Tel: 041 332 7777
Knowlton, Manchester, Tel: 061 633 3333
Preston, Lancashire, Tel: 0772 518597

HARVEY HUDSON
of WOODFORD

JAGUAR

1986 (C) DAIMLER 4.2 AUTOMATIC SALOON
Cranberry Red metallic/Doorskin leather, 3,550 miles, £22,995
1985 (C) DAIMLER 4.2 AUTOMATIC SALOON
Doorskin leather, 9,570 miles, £22,995
1986 (C) JAGUAR SOVEREIGN V12 AUTOMATIC
SALOON Anthracite/Doorskin leather, Electric sunroof, 5,042 miles, £22,995
1986 (C) JAGUAR XJS V12 AUTOMATIC COUPE Steel Blue/Saville Grey, 9,584 miles, £22,995
1984 (C) JAGUAR XJS HE AUTOMATIC COUPE Rhodium Silver/Black leather, 27,899 miles, £17,995
1986 (C) JAGUAR XJS HE AUTOMATIC COUPE Anthracite/Doorskin leather, Extras, 6,612 miles, £18,995
1986 (C) JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 4.2 AUTO Cranberry Red metallic/Doorskin, Electric sunroof, 15,103 miles, £17,495

Contact: D. Langwith or C. Urwin
01-989 6644
High Road Woodford E.18
Authorised dealer from Dealership by The B25

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